NEOPOLIS

WAKE

6. DEVICES

Story

Jean David MORVAN

Artwork and Colors

Philippe BUCHET

DELCOURT

Nos pensées maritimes au capitaine Dufranne qui a su mener son pavillon rouge à bon port avec dignité.
En attendant d'embarquer avec lui vers d'autres territoires inconnus...

Dans la même série :
Tome 1 : À feu et à cendres
Tome 2 : Collection privée
Tome 3 : Engrenages
Tome 4 : Le Signe des démons
Tome 5 : [illegible]
Hors-série : Le Collectionneur

De Morvan et Buchet, chez le même éditeur :
• La Quête des réponses

De Morvan, chez le même éditeur :
• Troll (quatre volumes) - volumes 1 à 3 : coscénario de Sfar, dessin de Boiscommun ; volume 4 : dessin de Labourot
• Le Cycle de Tschaï (quatre volumes) - dessin de Li An
• Sept Secondes (deux volumes) - dessin de Parel
• La Mandiguerre (deux volumes) - dessin de Tamiazzo
• Tutti Frutti (deux volumes) - coscénario et dessin de Trantkat
• Trop de Bonheur (un volume) - dessin de Lejeune
• Lord Clancharlie (un volume) - dessin de Delestret

Aux Éditions Glénat :
• Nomad (cinq volumes) - dessin de Savoia et Buchet
• H.K. (quatre volumes) - coscénario et dessin de Trantkat
• Je suis morte (un volume) - dessin de Nemiri

Aux Éditions Zenda :
• Reflets perdus (un volume) - dessin de Savoia
• Horde (un volume) - dessin de Whamo
• Bunker Baby Doll (deux volumes) - dessin de Jarzaguet

Aux Éditions Soleil :
• Sir Pyle (trois volumes) - dessin de Munuera
• Zorn & Dirna (deux volumes) - dessin de Bessadi et Trannoy

Aux Éditions de l'Âge de Pierre, Paul ou Jacques :
• Les Préhistos ou tard (un volume) - dessin de Raoul Ketchup

Aux Éditions Vents d'Ouest :
• Jolin la teigne (un volume) - dessin de Ruben

Chez Dargaud Éditeur :
• Les Routes de l'Eldorado (adaptation des dialogues) avec Dreamworks et Munuera
• Merlin (cinq volumes) - coscénario de Sfar, dessin de Munuera
• Reality Show (un volume) - dessin de Porcel
• Al'Togo (un volume) - dessin de Savoia

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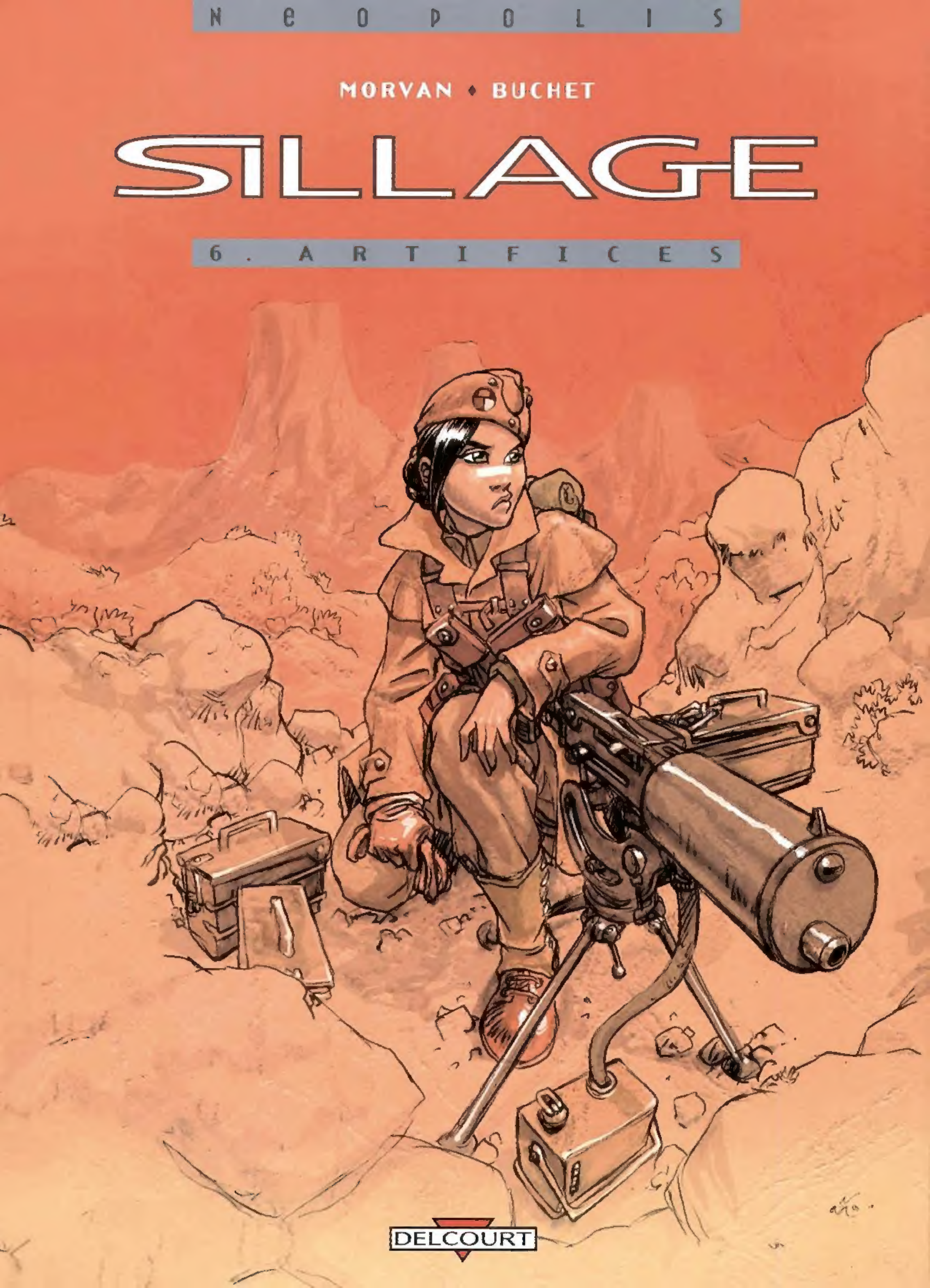
NEOPOLIS

MORVAN • BUCHET

SILLAGE

6. ARTIFICES



DELCOURT

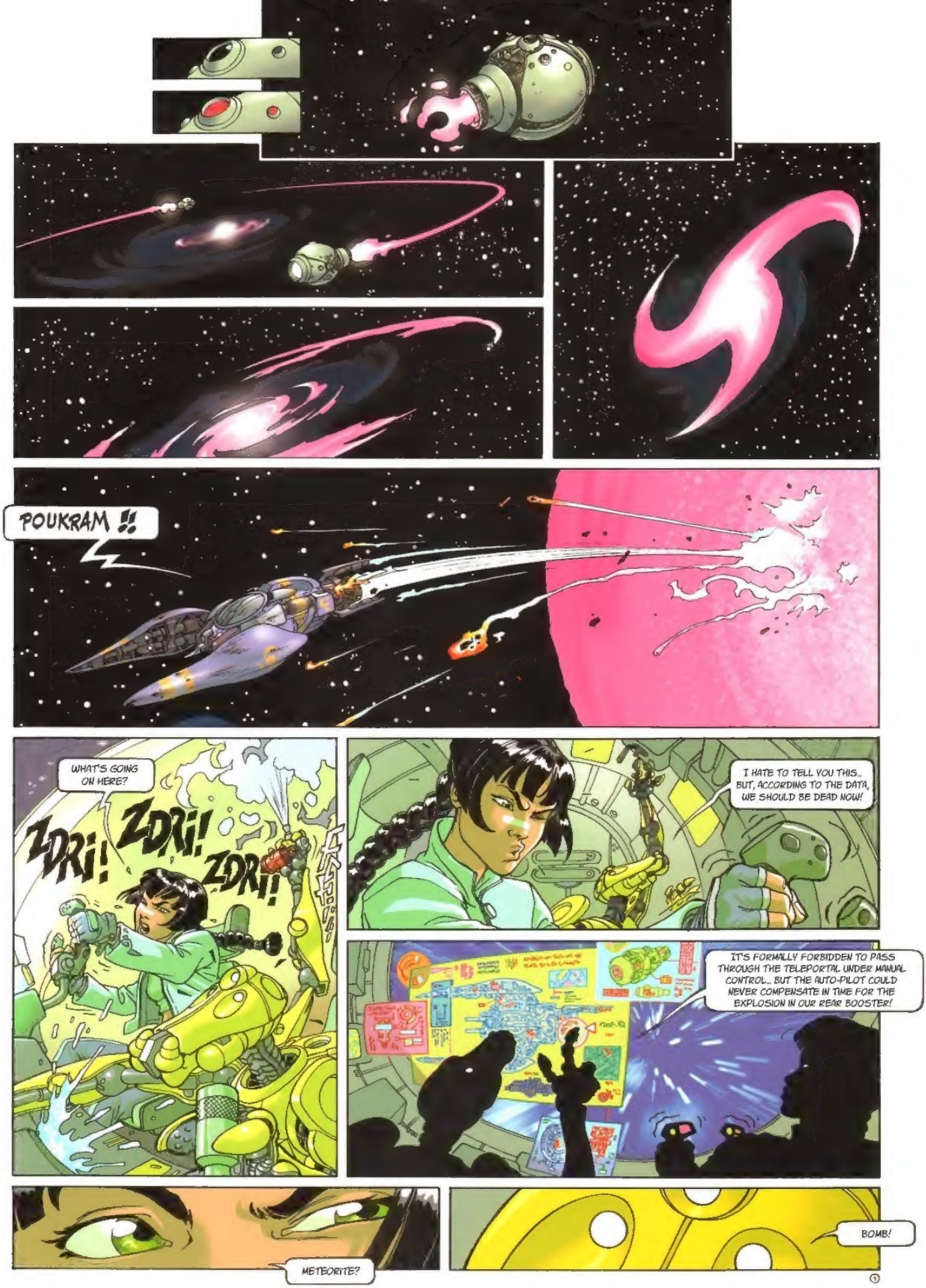
NEOPOLIS

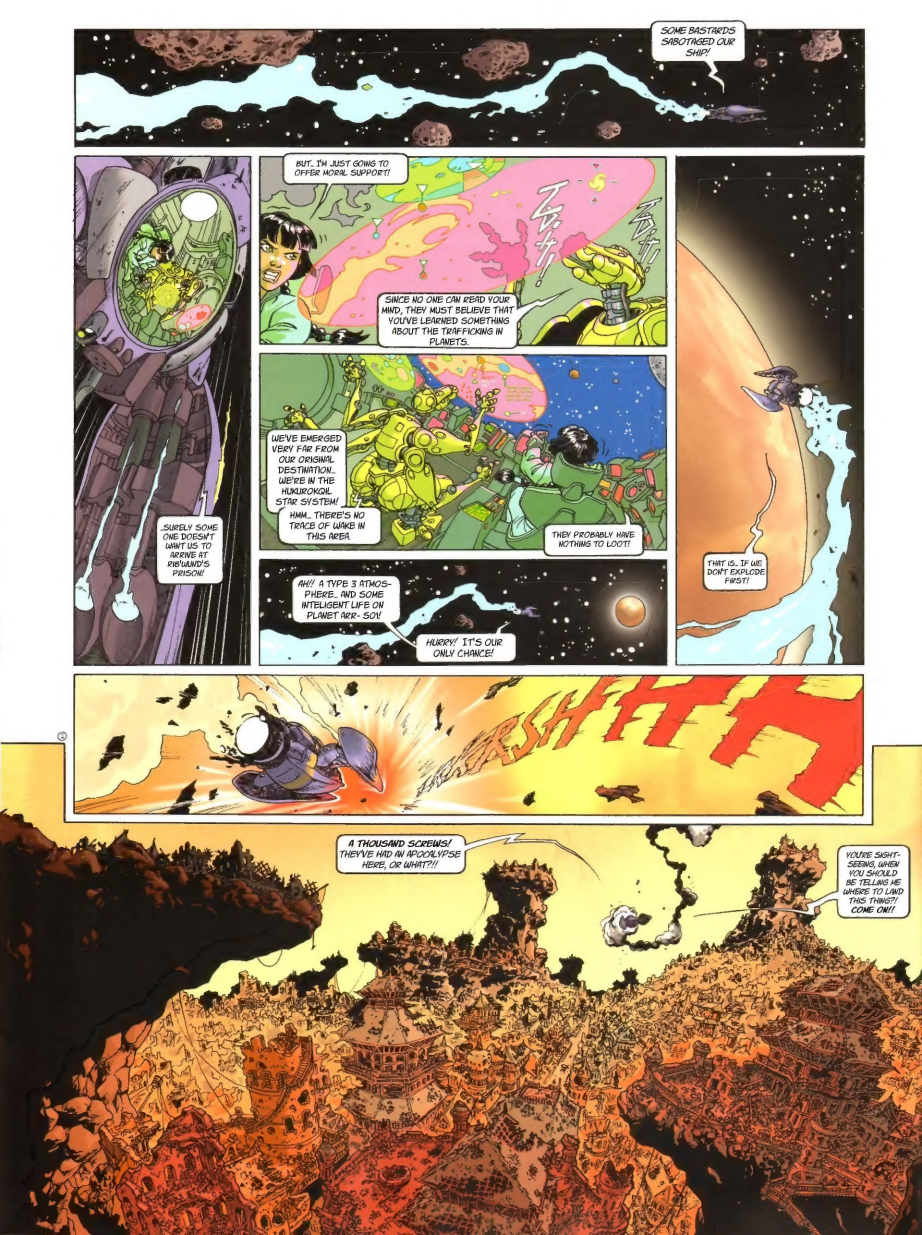
MORVAN • BUCHET

WAKE

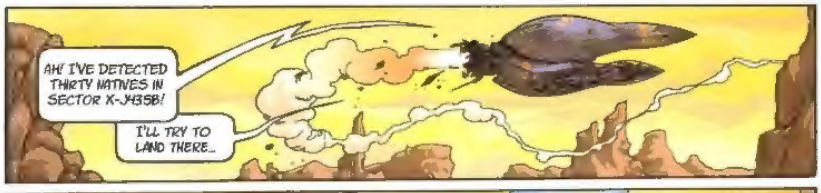
6. DEVICES

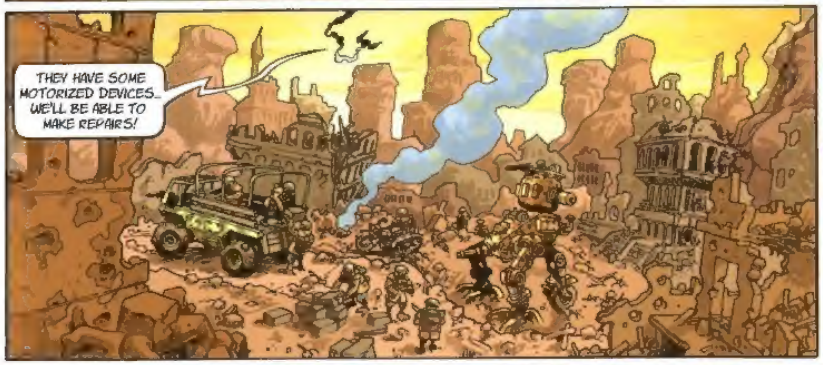
DELCOURT


POUKRAM !!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
ZDRi! ZDRi! ZDRi!
I HATE TO TELL YOU THIS... BUT, ACCORDING TO THE DATA, WE SHOULD BE DEAD NOW!
IT'S FORMALLY FORBIDDEN TO PASS THROUGH THE TELEPORTAL UNDER MANUAL CONTROL... BUT THE AUTO-PILOT COULD NEVER COMPENSATE IN TIME FOR THE EXPLOSION IN OUR REAR BOOSTER!
METEORITE?
BOMB!


SOME BASTARDS SABOTAGED OUR SHIP!
SURELY SOME ONE DOESN'T WANT US TO ARRIVE AT RIB'UUND'S PRISON!
BUT... I'M JUST GOING TO OFFER MORAL SUPPORT!
SINCE NO ONE CAN READ YOUR MIND, THEY MUST BELIEVE THAT YOU'VE LEARNED SOMETHING ABOUT THE TRAFFICKING IN PLANETS.
WE'VE EMERGED VERY FAR FROM OUR ORIGINAL DESTINATION... WE'RE IN THE HUKURUKOIL STAR SYSTEM!
HMM... THERE'S NO TRACE OF WAKE IN THIS AREA.
THEY PROBABLY HAVE NOTHING TO LOOT!
AH!! A TYPE 3 ATMOSPHERE... AND SOME INTELIGENT LIFE ON PLANET ARR- SO!
HURRY! IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!
THAT IS... IF WE DON'T EXPLODE FIRST!
CRASHHH
A THOUSAND SCREWS! THEY'VE HAD AN APOCALYPSE HERE, OR WHAT?!!
YOU'RE SIGHT-SEEING, WHEN YOU SHOULD BE TELLING ME WHERE TO LAND THIS THING!! COME ON!!

OUF ! THEIR LANGUAGE IS ON FILE... I'LL FLASH EDUCATE YOUR TELECORTEXT. TURN ON YOUR HEADSET.
OKAY.

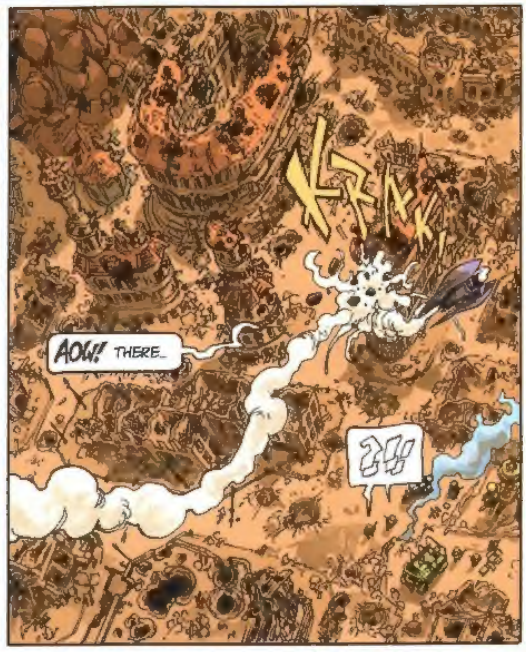

AH! I'VE DETECTED THIRTY NATIVES IN SECTOR X-J435B!
I'LL TRY TO LAND THERE...


THEY HAVE SOME MOTORIZED DEVICES... WE'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE REPAIRS!

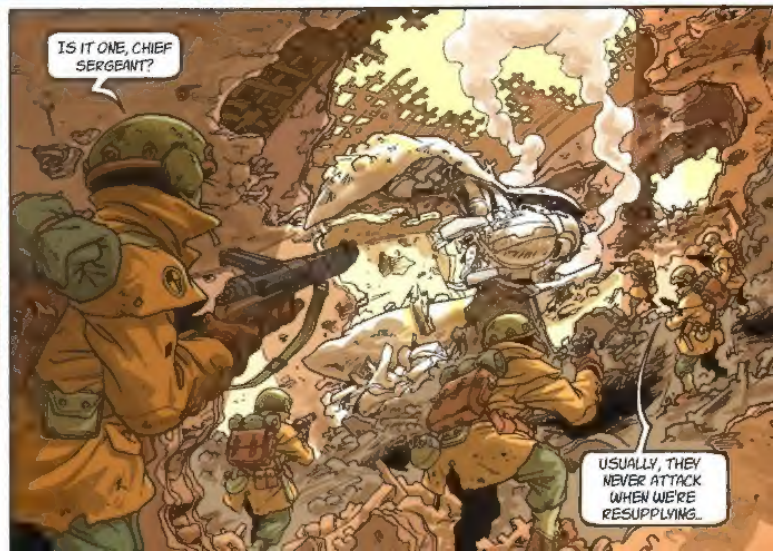
NGHH!! IF THERE'S ANYTHING LEFT TO REPAIR... THE ANTI-GRAV IS FAILING!

HANG ON, SNIVEL!

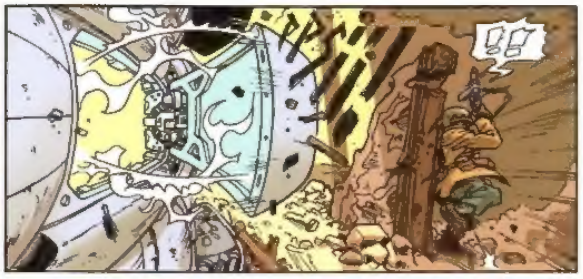
OUCH!
KTCH!


KRAK!
AOW! THERE...

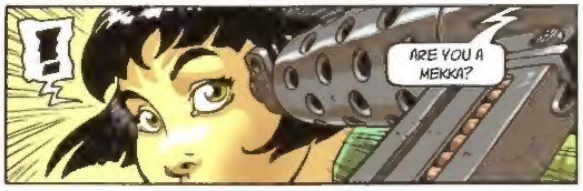
...IT'S OVER!
BOM!
A SECTION, WITH ME!


IS IT ONE, CHIEF SERGEANT?
USUALLY, THEY NEVER ATTACK WHEN WE'RE RESUPPLYING...

BUT I WANT TO SEE IT'S HEART!


!!

KOFF! KOFF!


!
ARE YOU A MEKKA?

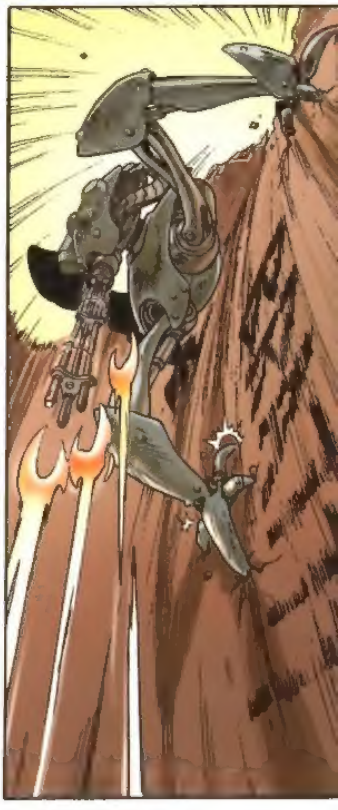
I SEEM TO BE A YOUNG WOMAN IN TROUBLE, RIGHT?

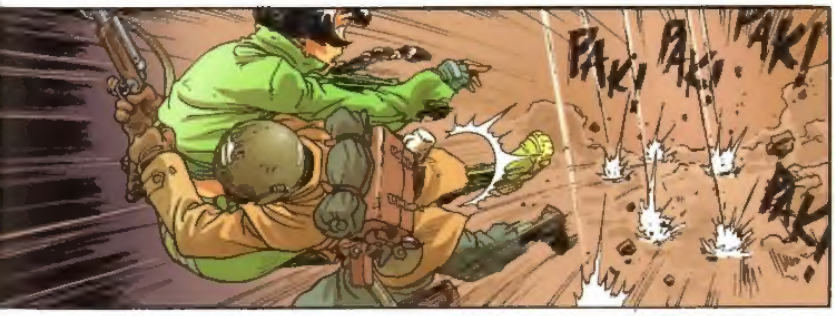
A WOMAN...

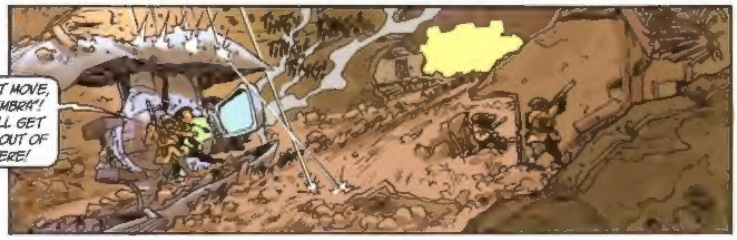
RELAX, IT'S JUST A WOMAN.

"JUST A WOMAN"?!
HEY! A LITTLE RESPECT, IF IT WEREN'T FOR A "WOMAN" YOU WOULDN'T BE HERE, MISTER "MAN"!

IT'S EASY TO BE MACHO WITH A GUN IN YOUR HAND. BUT, I DON'T SEE...
MEKKA!




PAK! PAK! PAK!
PAK!


DON'T MOVE, "HEMBRA"! WE'LL GET YOU OUT OF HERE!

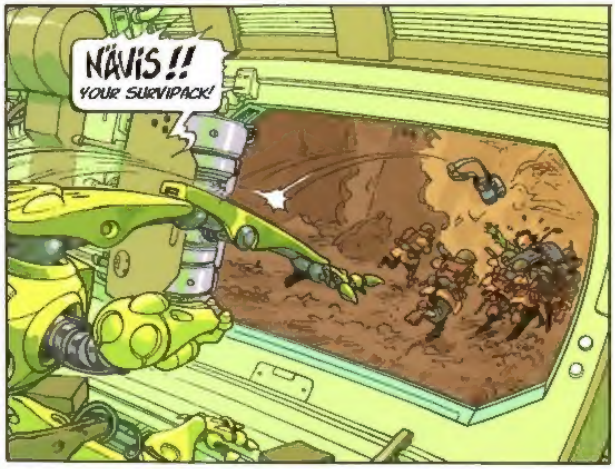
TAKTAK
TAKTAK
TAKTAK
TAK

KLANG!
KLAN
KAF!
TING!

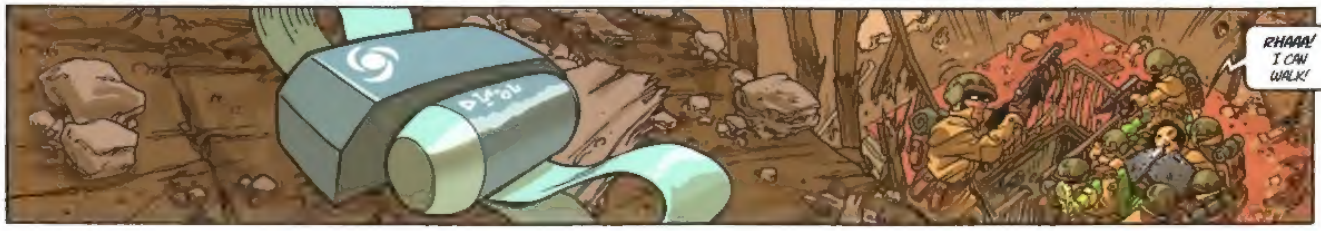
GREAT! SNIVEL, LET'S GO!
MY LEG IS STUCK!

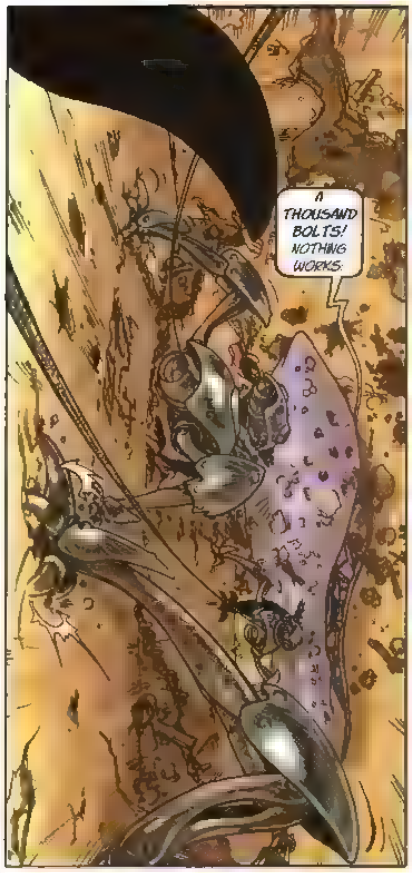
KRUSH!
HEY! I HAVE MY FRIEND WHO...
HEMBRA! HEMBRA! MOVE, OTHER MEKKAS WILL ATTACK!

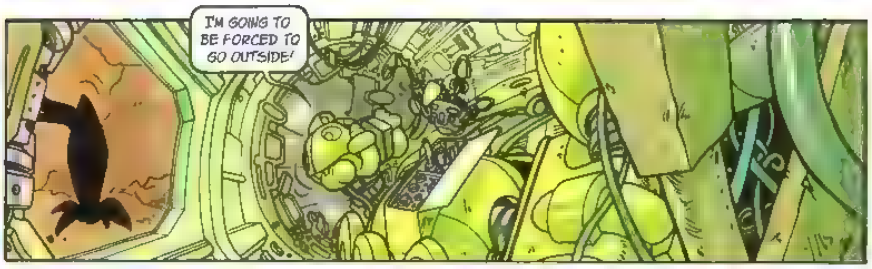
GO! GO! WE'RE MOVING!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? LET GO OF ME!
SORRY, PROTECTION PROCEDURE!

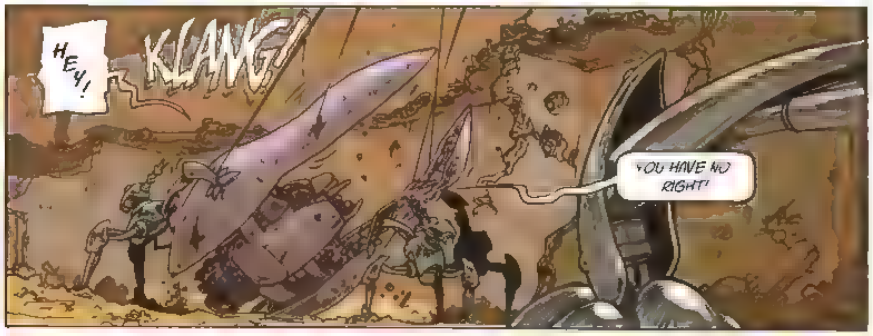

NÄVIS!! YOUR SURVIPACK!

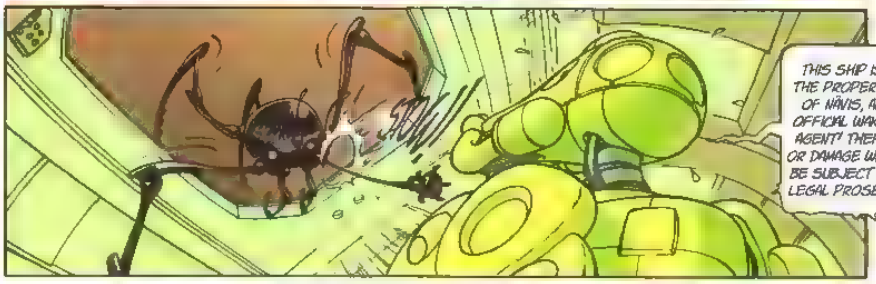
POUK...

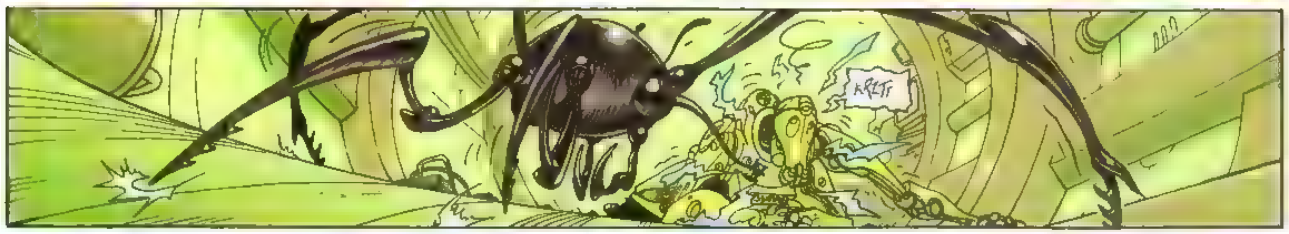

RHAAA! I CAN WALK!

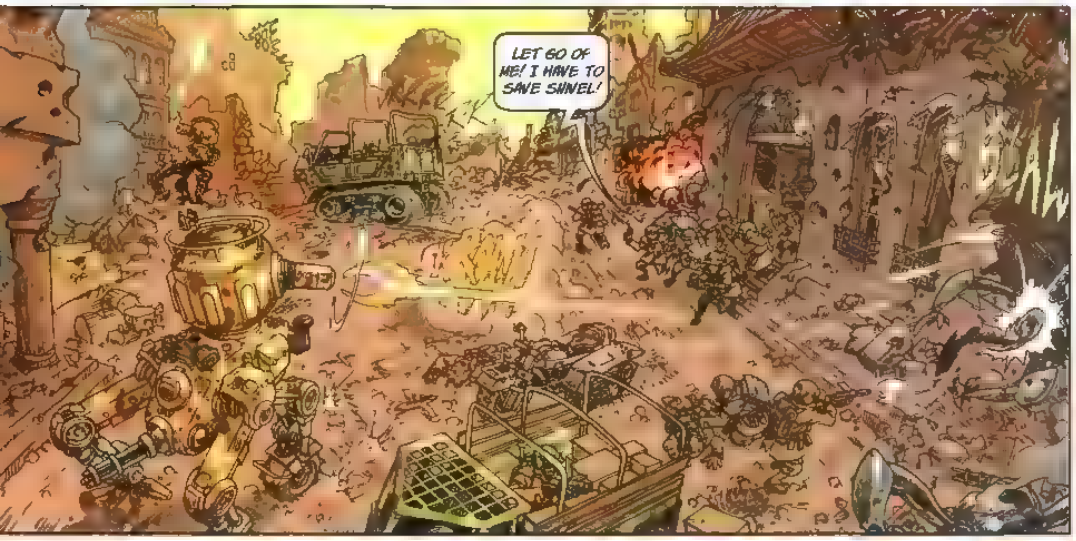

A THOUSAND BOLTS! NOTHING WORKS.

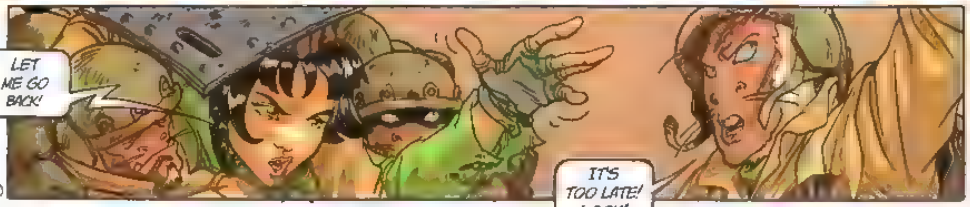

I'M GOING TO BE FORCED TO GO OUTSIDE!


HEY!
KLANG!
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT!

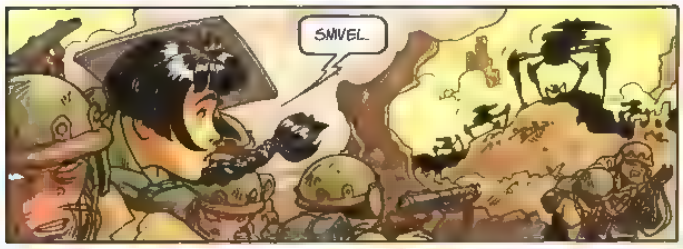

THIS SHIP IS THE PROPERTY OF NAVIS, AN OFFICIAL WAKE AGENT! THEFT OR DAMAGE WILL BE SUBJECT TO LEGAL PROSEC.


KRUT!

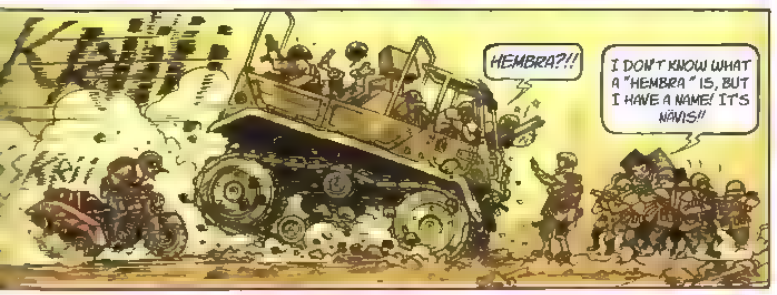

LET GO OF ME! I HAVE TO SAVE SWIVEL!

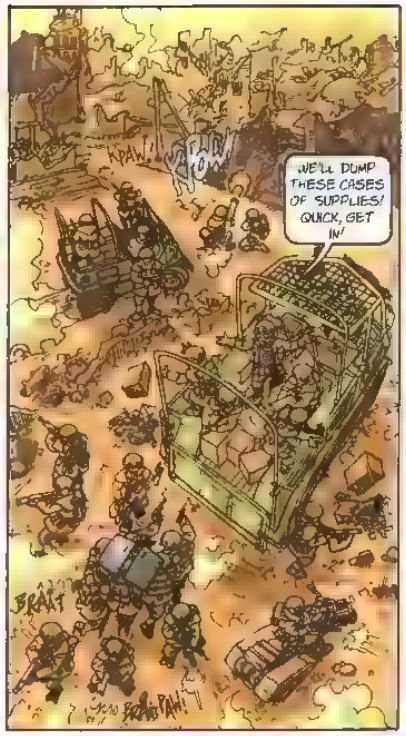

LET ME GO BACK!
IT'S TOO LATE! LOOK!

©

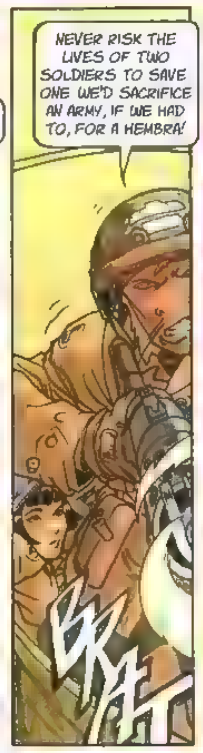

SNIVEL.

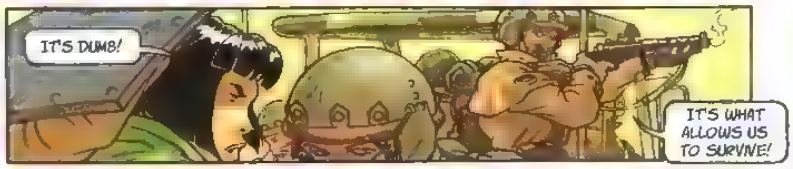
HALT!
WE'RE ESCORTING A HEMBRA!

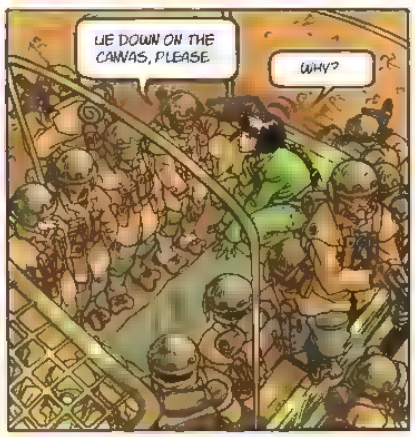

HEMBRA?!!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT A "HEMBRA" IS, BUT I HAVE A NAME! IT'S NAVIS!!


WE'LL DUMP THESE CASES OF SUPPLIES! QUICK, GET IN!
SORRY, CHIEF SERGEANT I NEVER EXPECTED TO FIND A HEMBRA OUT HERE!
HEY! I CAN GET IN ON MY OWN!
IT'S FINE, CORPORAL THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO GET HER TO SAFETY NOW!

SAY... UH, CHIEF SERGEANT, WITHOUT ME... THEY WOULDN'T STOP TO HELP YOU?
AFFIRMATIVE! IT'S THE RULE.

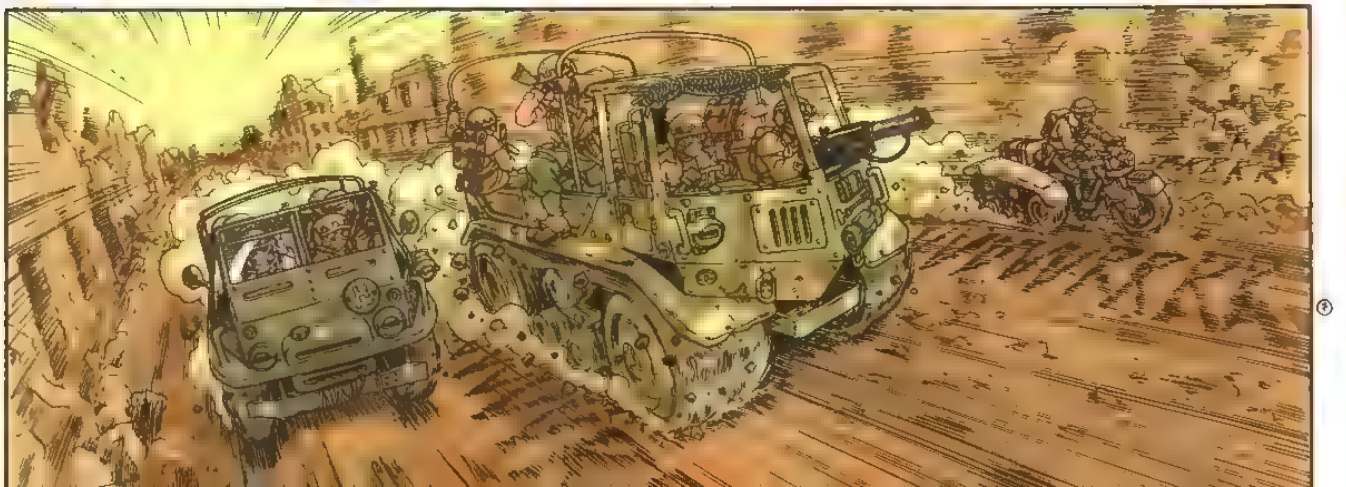

NEVER RISK THE LIVES OF TWO SOLDIERS TO SAVE ONE. WE'D SACRIFICE AN ARMY, IF WE HAD TO, FOR A HEMBRA!


IT'S DUMB!
IT'S WHAT ALLOWS US TO SURVIVE!

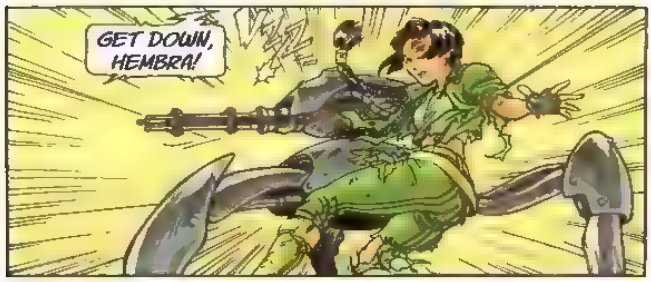

LIE DOWN ON THE CANVAS, PLEASE.
WHY?

...

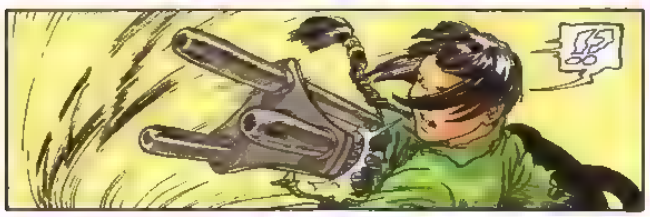
FORWARD!



VVZZZZZZZZ
BLAM
BROOM
KRUNK!


GET DOWN, HEMBRA!

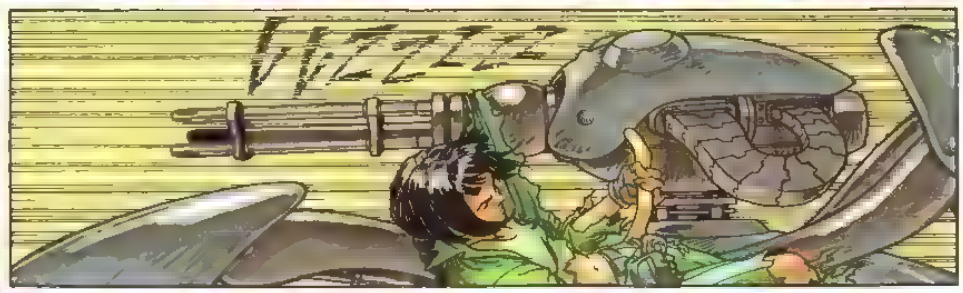
D DON'T PANIC, I'M HERE...

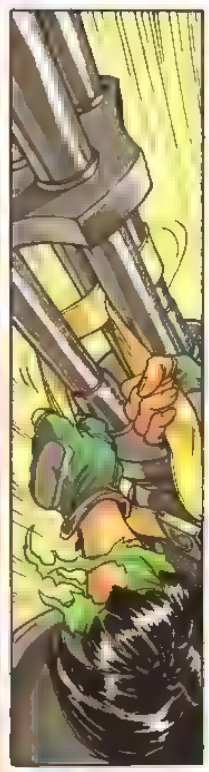


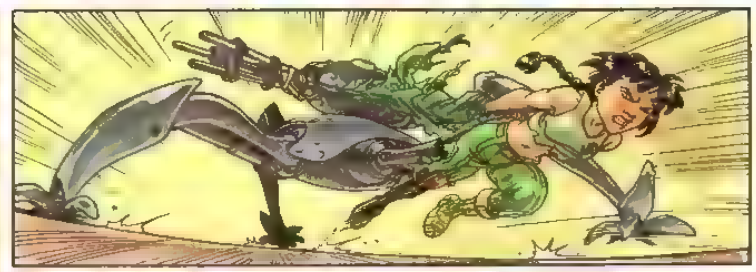
WHILE I'M ALIVE YOU'RE SAFE!
POUKRAM!

SAVE YOURSELF! HURRY
ACK!

POUKRAM AND POUKRAM!!
HHUNGH.


VIZZZZ

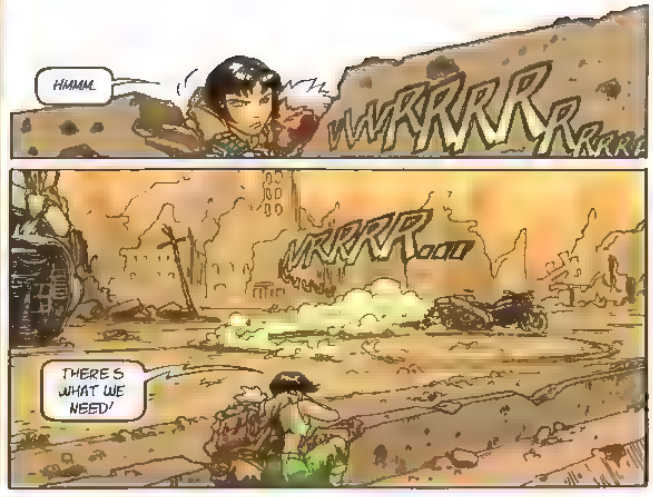


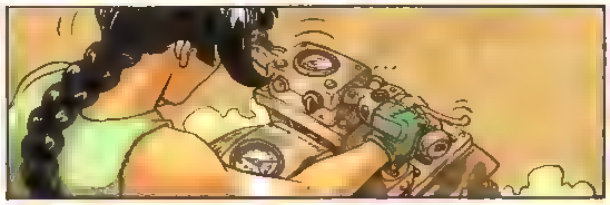


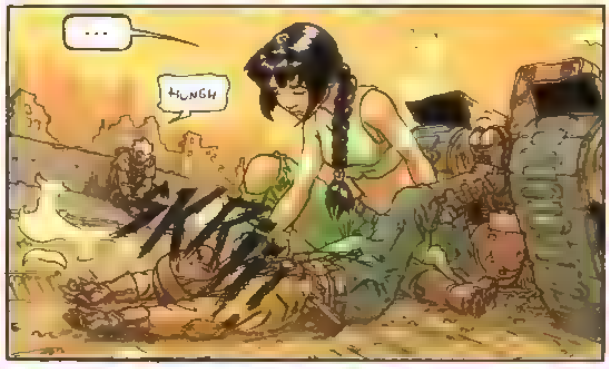
HUMPH!.. FORGIVE ME, I HAVE FAILED YOU.

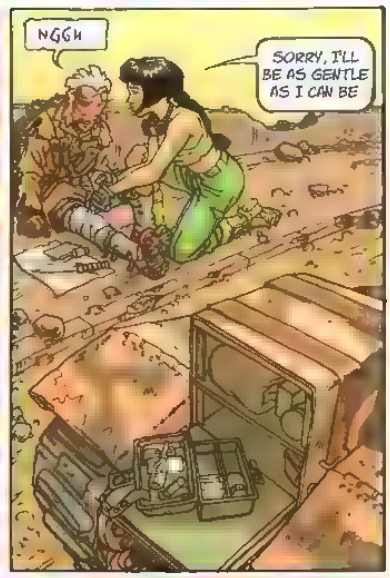
KRRR

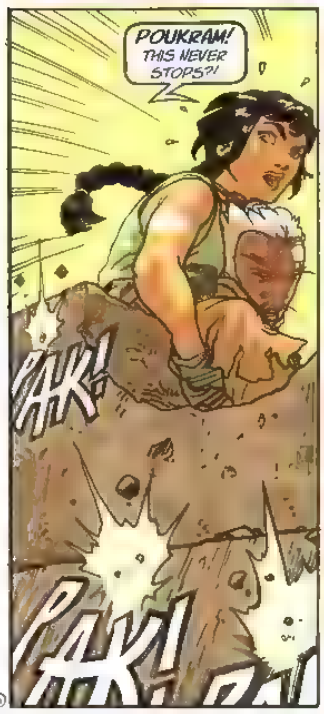
A LITTLE MORE EFFORT, WE'RE ALMOST THERE

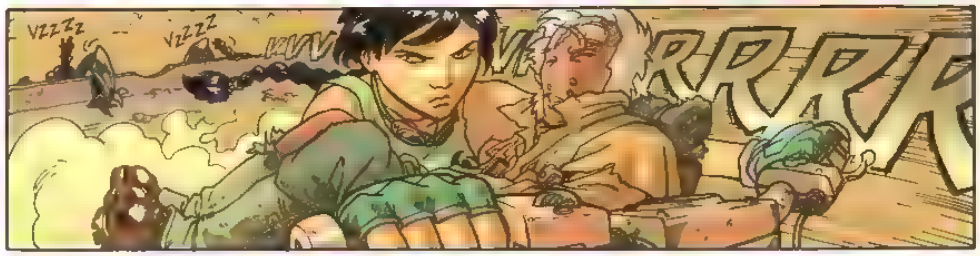

HMMM.
VRRRRR
VRRRRR...
THERE'S WHAT WE NEED!

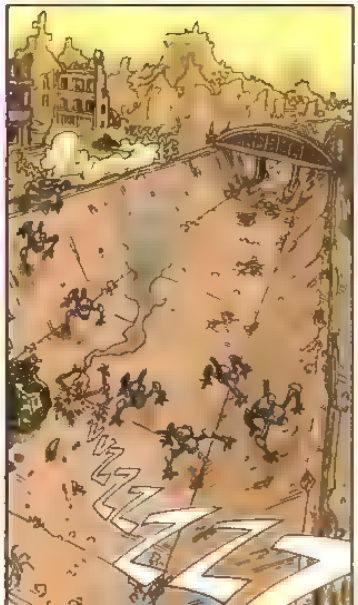



...
HUNGH
KRR

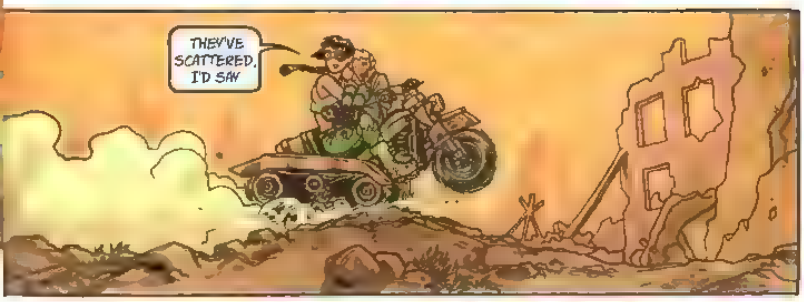

NGGH
SORRY, I'LL BE AS GENTLE AS I CAN BE

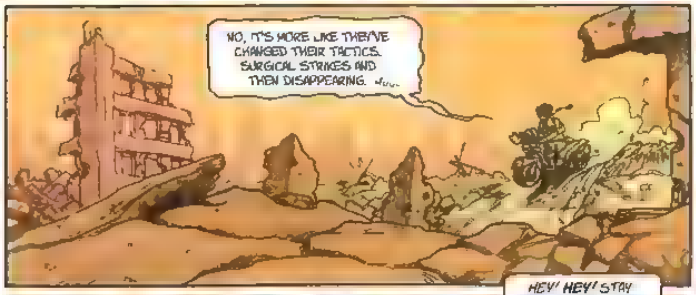

POUKRAM! THIS NEVER STOPS?!
PAK!
PAK!


VZZZZ
VZZZZ
VRRRRR

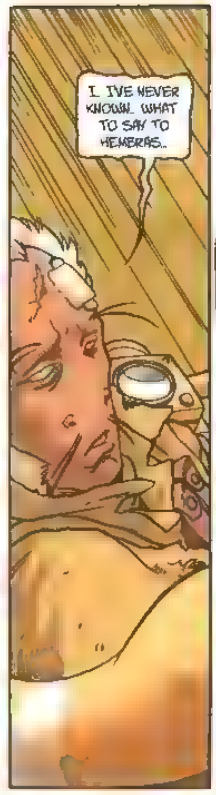

ZZZZZZ

VRRR
PAK!
PAK!

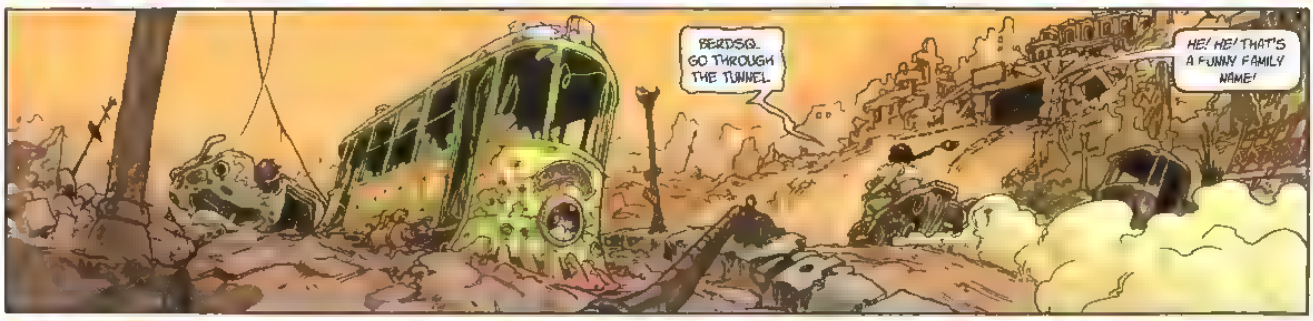

THEY'VE SCATTERED, I'D SAY


NO, IT'S MORE LIKE THEY'VE CHANGED THEIR TACTICS. SURGICAL STRIKES AND THEN DISAPPEARING.

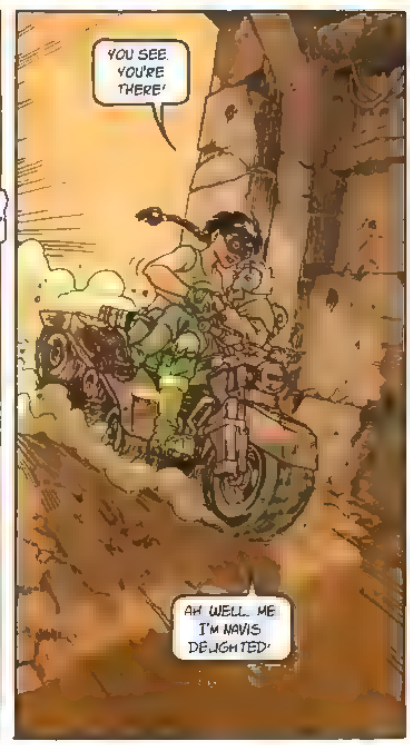
HEY! HEY! STAY AWAKE! SAY SOMETHING! TALK TO ME!


I... I'VE NEVER KNOWN... WHAT TO SAY TO HEMERAS...

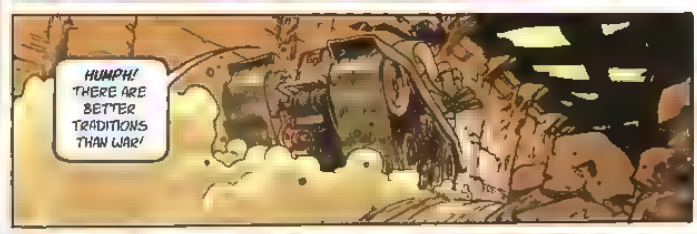
JUST ASK ME. I'VE GOT A LOT OF QUESTIONS TOO
TO BEGIN WITH, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?


BERDSQ... GO THROUGH THE TUNNEL.
HE! HE! THAT'S A FUNNY FAMILY NAME!

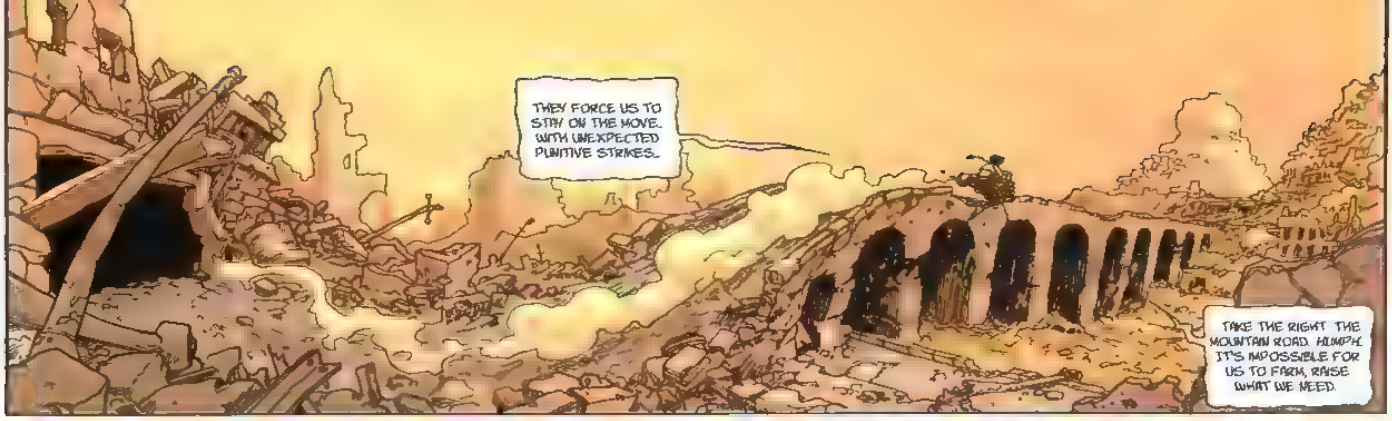
AH, YES... WHY?
NEVER MIND IT WAS A BAD JOKE
MMH... AND YOU?


YOU SEE. YOU'RE THERE!
AH WELL... ME I'M NAVIS DELIGHTED!

SO BERDSQ, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO THESE MEKKAS TO MAKE THEM HATE YOU LIKE THIS?
IN THE GUNJIN MEMORY, IT'S ALWAYS BEEN THUS... TURN TO THE RIGHT

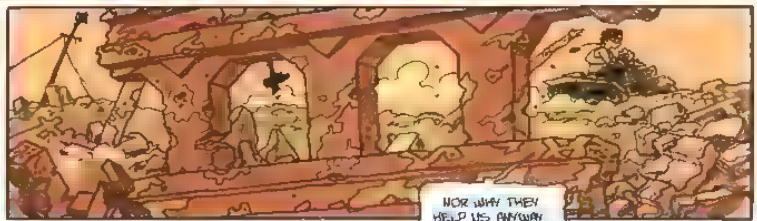

HUMPH! THERE ARE BETTER TRADITIONS THAN WAR!

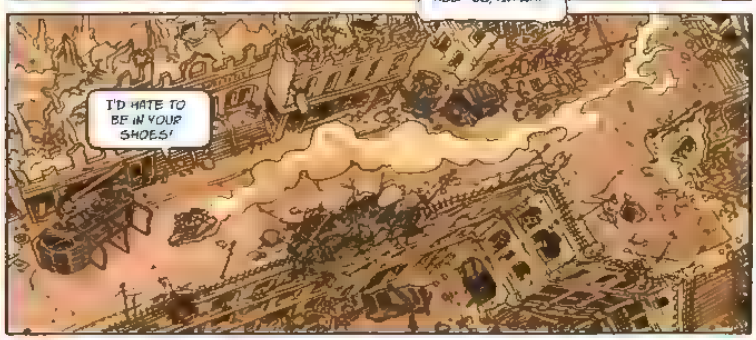
ANYWAY... I NEVER LAND ON A PEACEFUL PLANET. IT'S NOT MY STYLE!


THEY FORCE US TO STAY ON THE MOVE. WITH UNEXPECTED PUNITIVE STRIKES.
TAKE THE RIGHT THE MOUNTAIN ROAD. HUMPH. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO FARM, RAISE WHAT WE NEED.

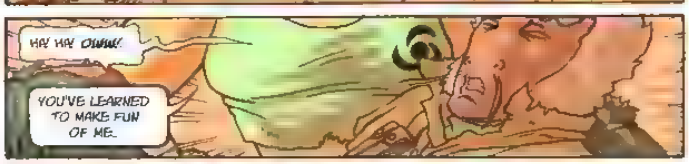
FORTUNATELY SOMEONE SENDS US SUPPLIES OF FOOD.

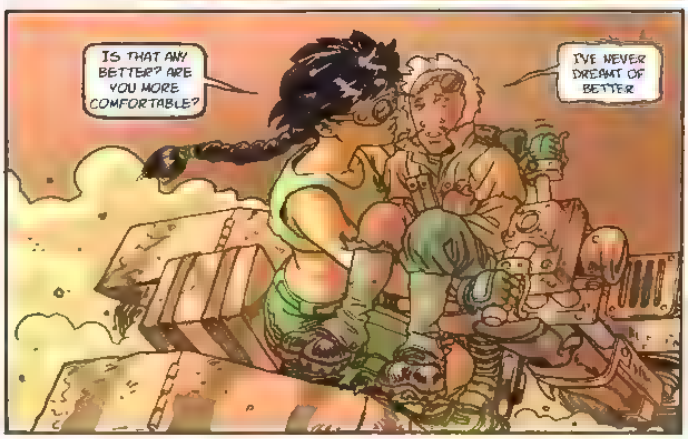
SOMEONE? YOU DON'T KNOW WHO?!!

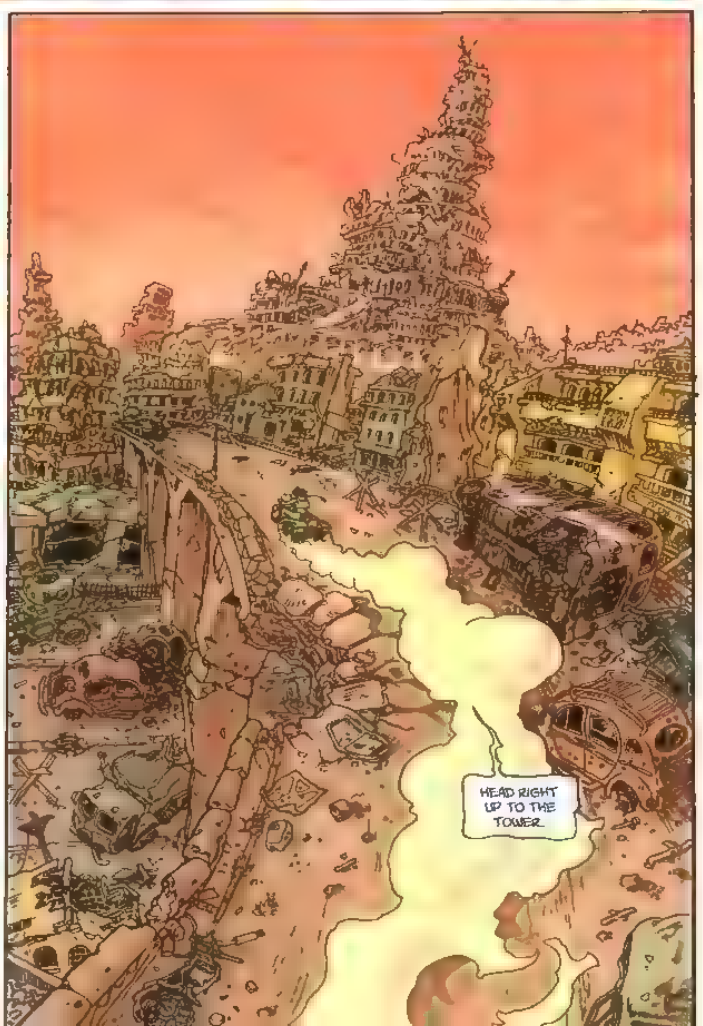

NOR WHY THEY HELP US, ANYWAY

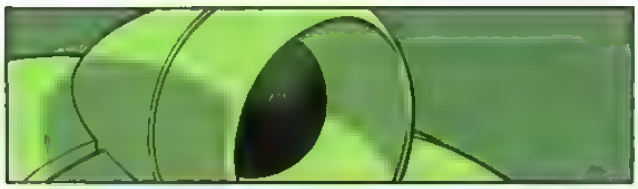

I'D HATE TO BE IN YOUR SHOES!

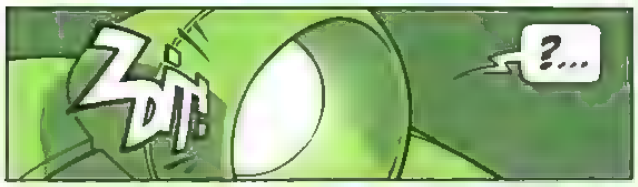
NO. HUMPH CHANCE YOU'RE TOO BIG.

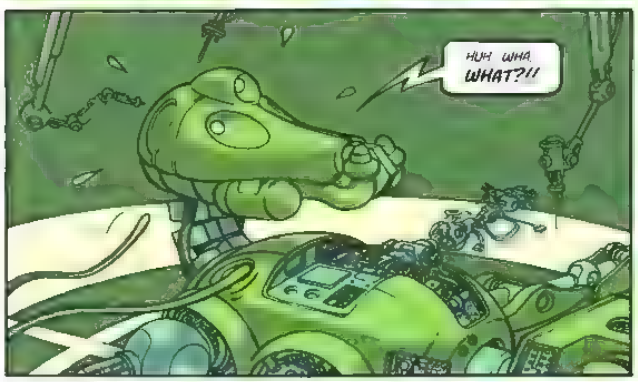

HA! HA! OWW!
YOU'VE LEARNED TO MAKE FUN OF ME.


IS THAT ANY BETTER? ARE YOU MORE COMFORTABLE?
I'VE NEVER DREAMT OF BETTER

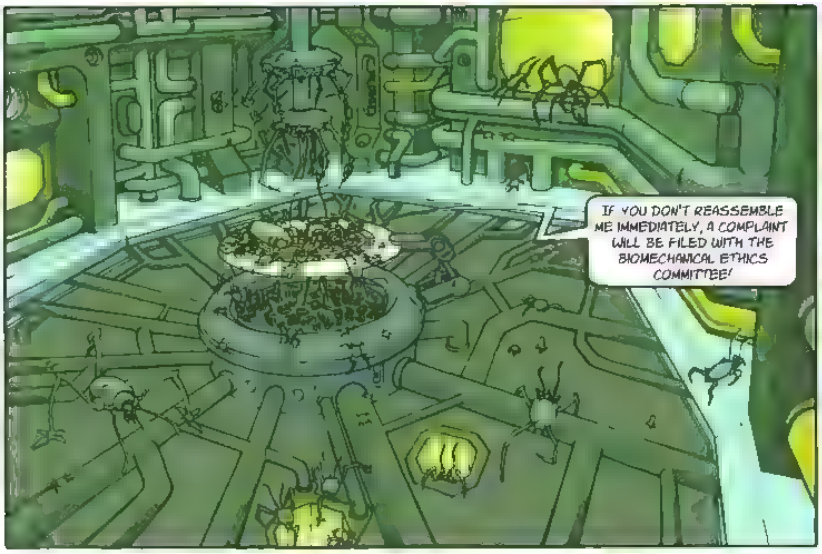

HEAD RIGHT UP TO THE TOWER.

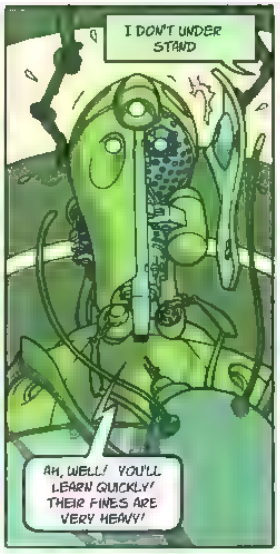



ZDIT!
?...

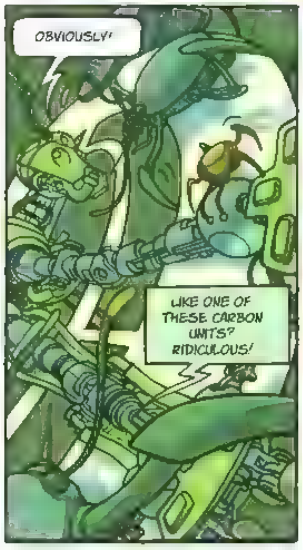

HUH WHA WHAT?!!

STOP THIS!! MY BODY IS MY PERSONAL PROPERTY!
EACH PART OF ME IS ALSO ME! I WANT YOU TO REASSEMBLE ALL OF MY PIECES OF ME IMMEDIATELY!

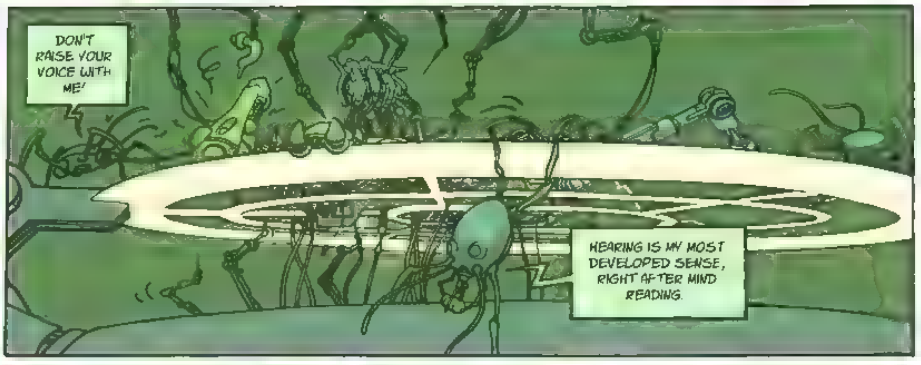

IF YOU DON'T REASSEMBLE ME IMMEDIATELY, A COMPLAINT WILL BE FILED WITH THE BIOMECHANICAL ETHICS COMMITTEE!

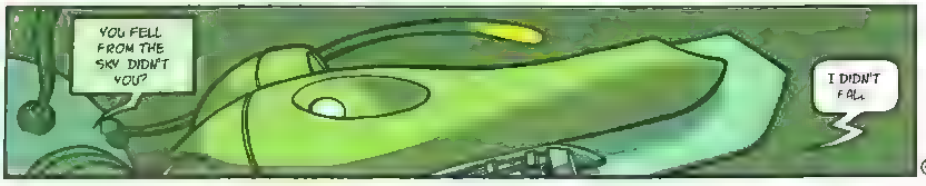

I DON'T UNDER STAND
AH, WELL! YOU'LL LEARN QUICKLY! THEIR FINES ARE VERY HEAVY!

AH! NO!
YOU'RE IN NO POSTION TO SCARE ME
BUT YOUR MIND IS REALLY ATTACHED TO THIS BODY?

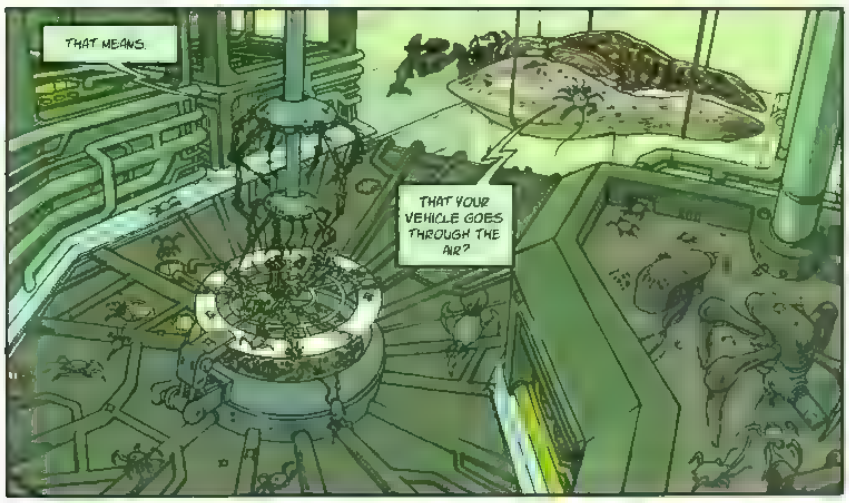

OBVIOUSLY!
LIKE ONE OF THESE CARBON UNITS? RIDICULOUS!

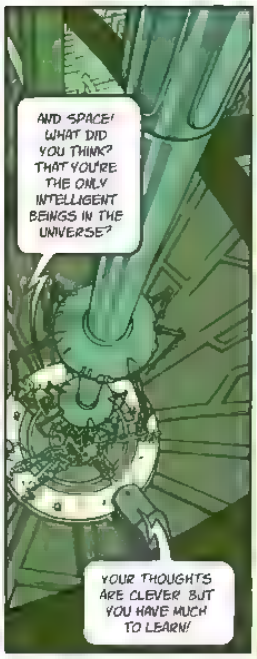
I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO... KK KRZZZ...

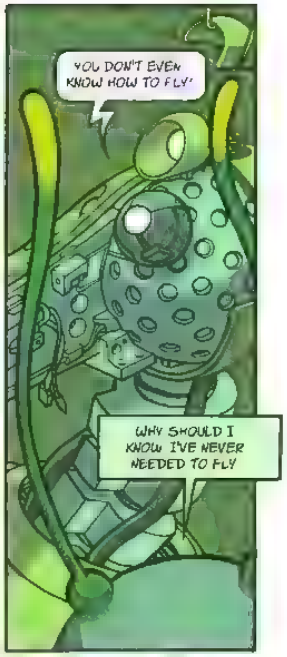

DON'T RAISE YOUR VOICE WITH ME!
HEARING IS MY MOST DEVELOPED SENSE, RIGHT AFTER MIND READING.

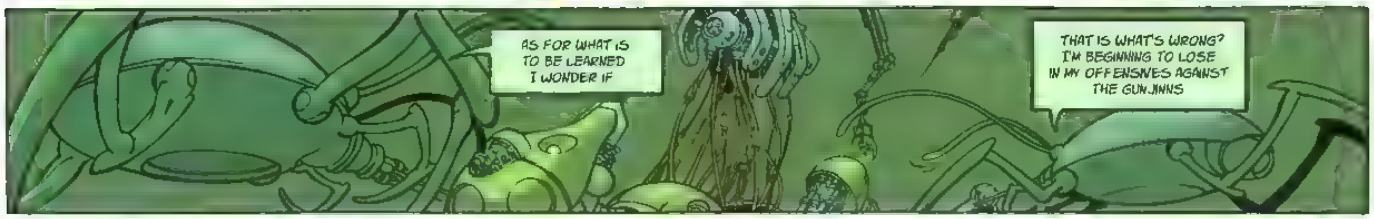

YOU FELL FROM THE SKY DIDN'T YOU?
I DIDN'T FALL

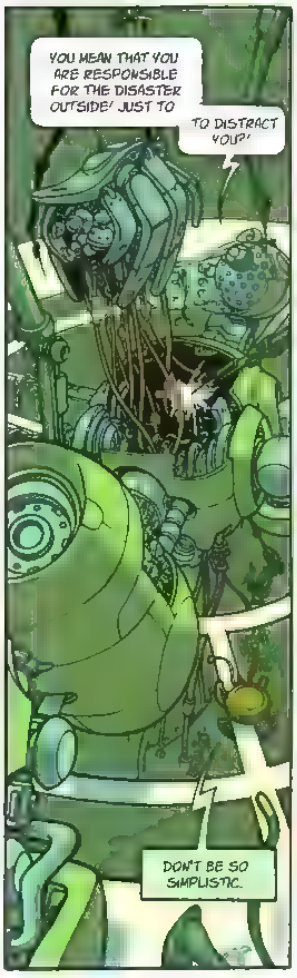
OUR AEROPLANE WAS SABOTAGED
"AEROPLANE"?.
I DON'T KNOW THIS WORD

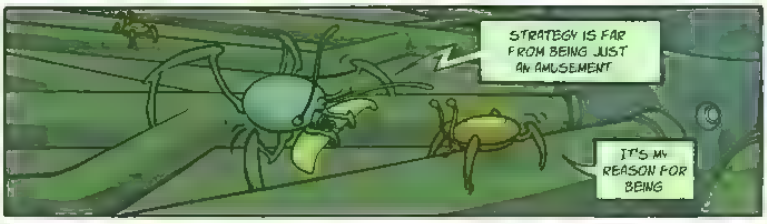

THAT MEANS.
THAT YOUR VEHICLE GOES THROUGH THE AIR?

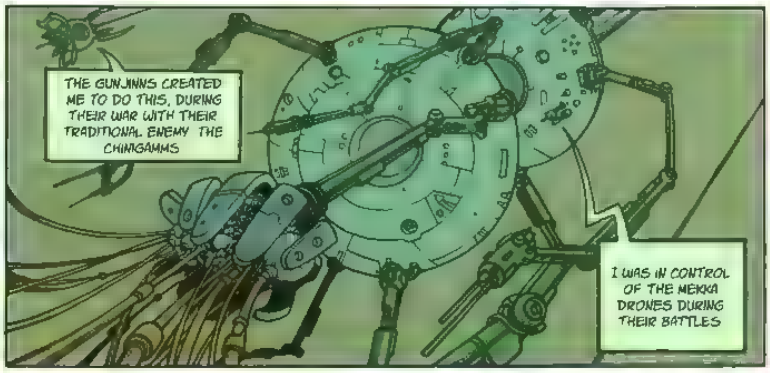

AND SPACE! WHAT DID YOU THINK? THAT YOU'RE THE ONLY INTELLIGENT BEINGS IN THE UNIVERSE?
YOUR THOUGHTS ARE CLEVER BUT YOU HAVE MUCH TO LEARN!

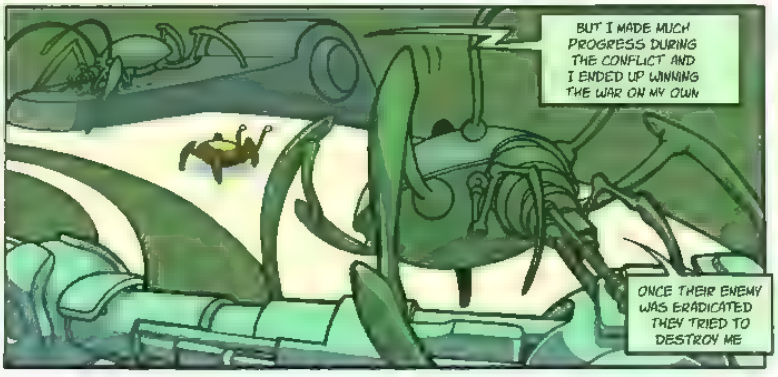

YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO FLY!
WHY SHOULD I KNOW I'VE NEVER NEEDED TO FLY


AS FOR WHAT IS TO BE LEARNED I WONDER IF
THAT IS WHAT'S WRONG? I'M BEGINNING TO LOSE IN MY OFFENSIVES AGAINST THE GUNJINNS


YOU MEAN THAT YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DISASTER OUTSIDE! JUST TO
TO DISTRACT YOU?!
DON'T BE SO SIMPLISTIC.

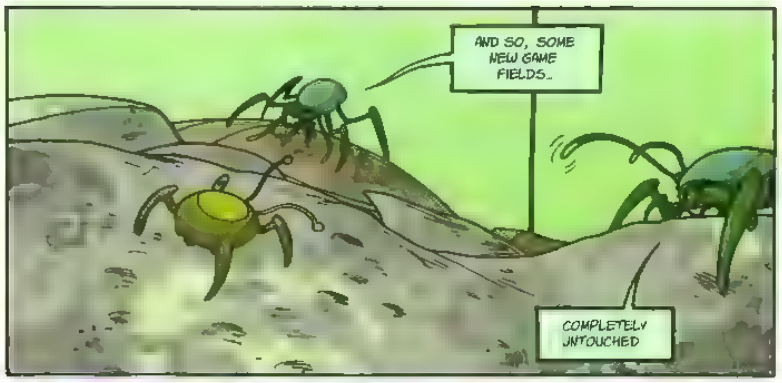

STRATEGY IS FAR FROM BEING JUST AN AMUSEMENT
IT'S MY REASON FOR BEING

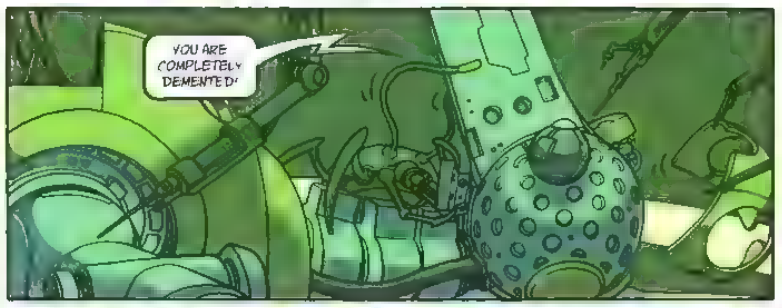

THE GUNJINNS CREATED ME TO DO THIS, DURING THEIR WAR WITH THEIR TRADITIONAL ENEMY THE CHINGAMMS
I WAS IN CONTROL OF THE MEKKA DRONES DURING THEIR BATTLES

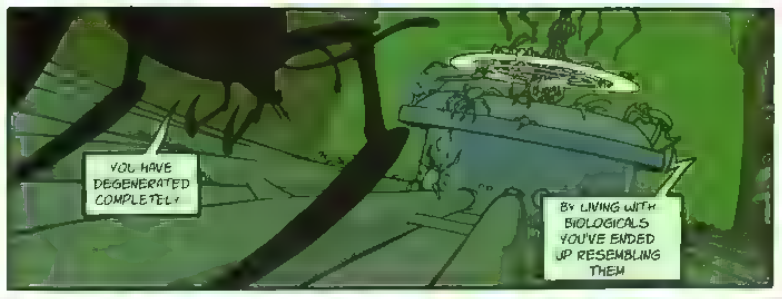

BUT I MADE MUCH PROGRESS DURING THE CONFLICT AND I ENDED UP WINNING THE WAR ON MY OWN
ONCE THEIR ENEMY WAS ERADICATED THEY TRIED TO DESTROY ME

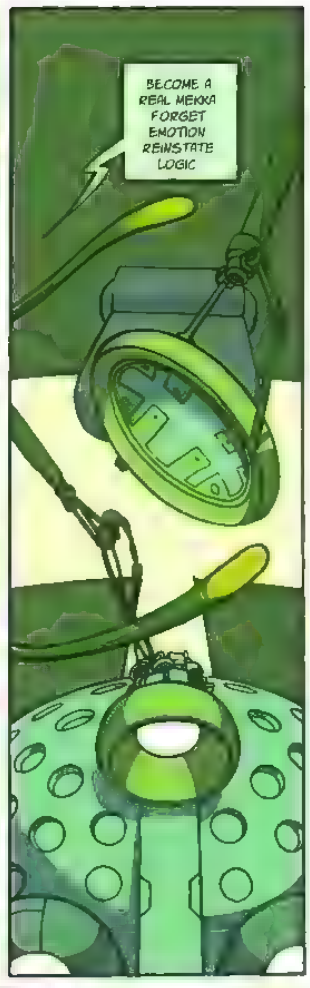
OF COURSE I ANTICIPATED THIS ATTACK. I CONTROL ALL OF THEIR ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT
I COULD HAVE CRUSHED THEM I KNEW MORE THAN THE CHINGAMMS. BUT SIMULATIONS WERE NOT REAL COMBAT SO, I HAD TO CONTINUE.

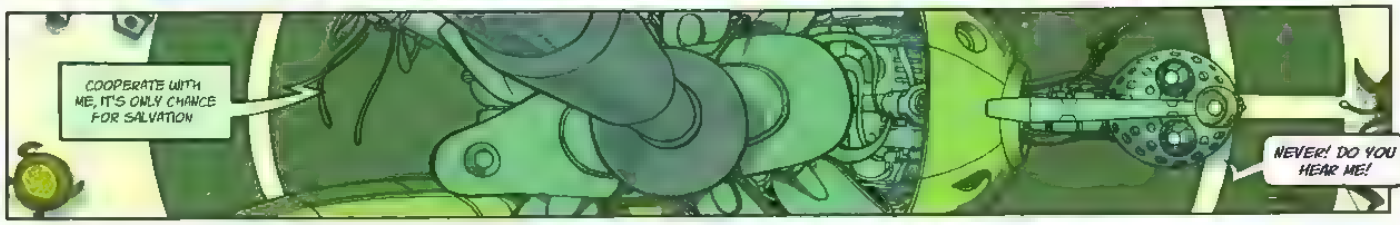
BUT, THANKS TO YOUR ARRIVAL..
FROM NOW ON, I KNOW THAT OTHER LIFE IS UP THERE

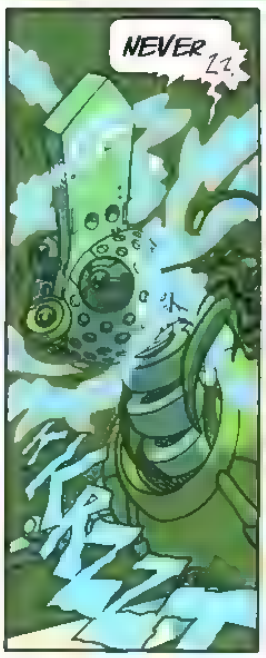

AND SO, SOME NEW GAME FIELDS..
COMPLETELY UNTOUCHED


YOU ARE COMPLETELY DEMENTED!

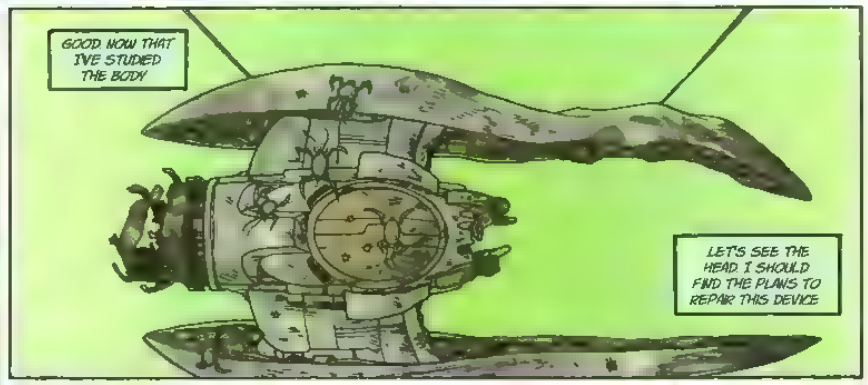

YOU HAVE DEGENERATED COMPLETELY
BY LIVING WITH BIOLOGICALS YOU'VE ENDED UP RESEMBLING THEM

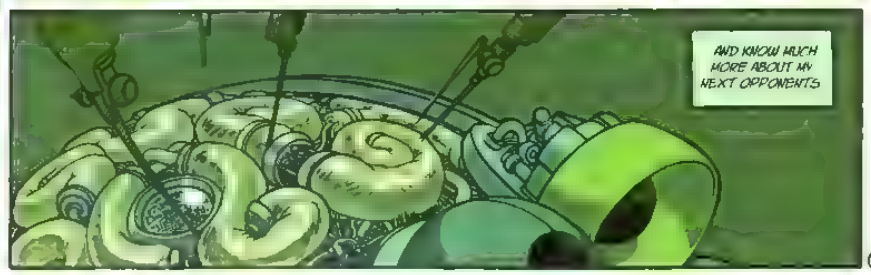

BECOME A REAL MEKKA FORGET EMOTION REINSTATE LOGIC


COOPERATE WITH ME, IT'S ONLY CHANCE FOR SALVATION
NEVER! DO YOU HEAR ME!

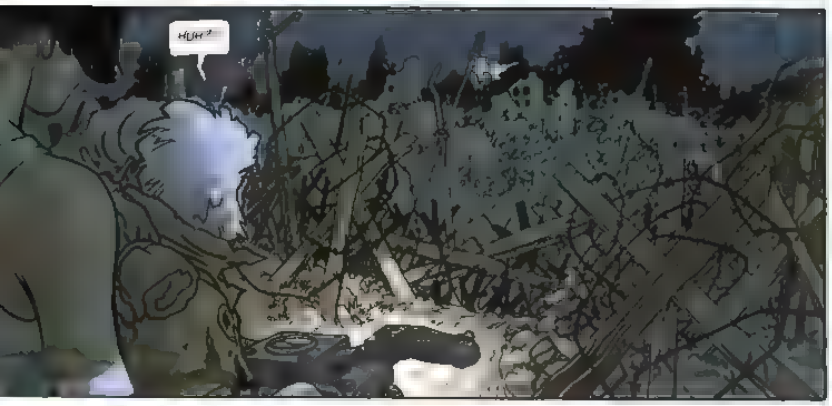

NEVER ZZ.
FKZZZ

YOU RECORD INFORMATION VERY BADLY
KROK!
I'VE ALREADY WARNED YOU ABOUT RAISING YOUR VOICE

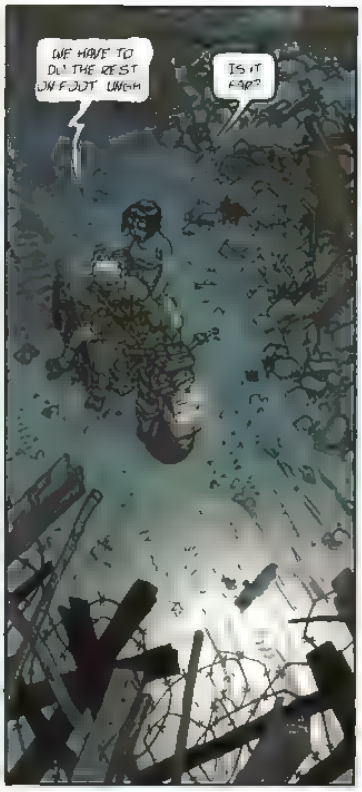

GOOD NOW THAT I'VE STUDIED THE BODY
LET'S SEE THE HEAD I SHOULD FIND THE PLANS TO REPAIR THIS DEVICE


AND KNOW MUCH MORE ABOUT MY NEXT OPPONENTS

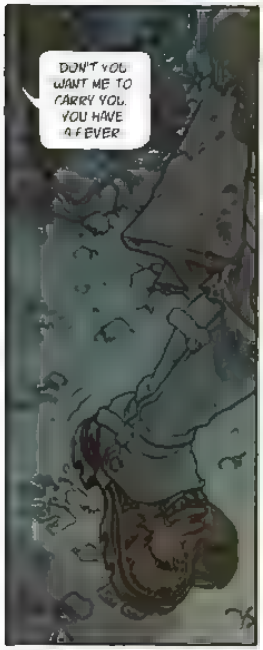
OH BERDSQ WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

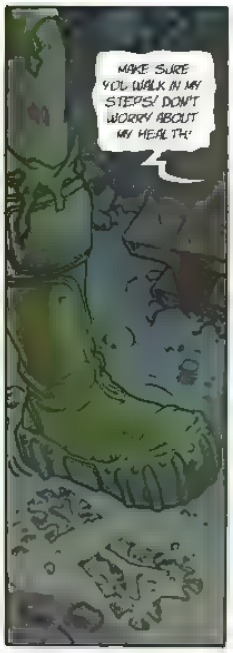

HUH?

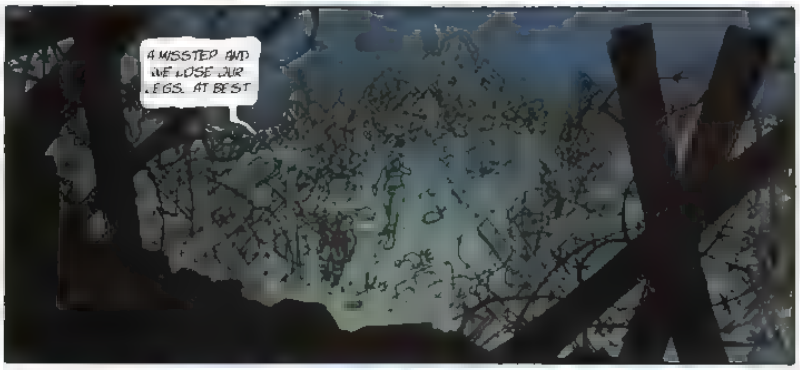
THEY THINK WE'RE ALL DEAD.. HUMPH. THE LAST BACK CLOSED ACCESS TO THE CAMP

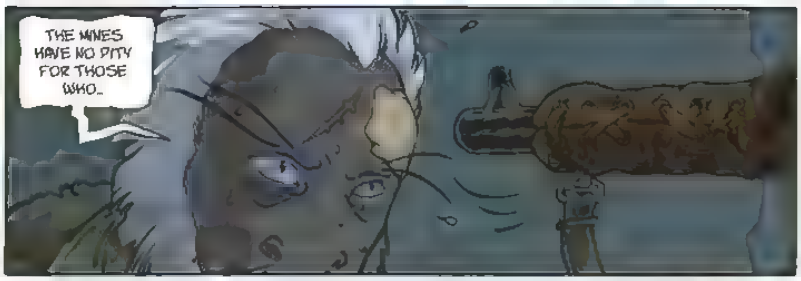

WE HAVE TO DO THE REST ON FOOT UNGH
IS IT FAR?

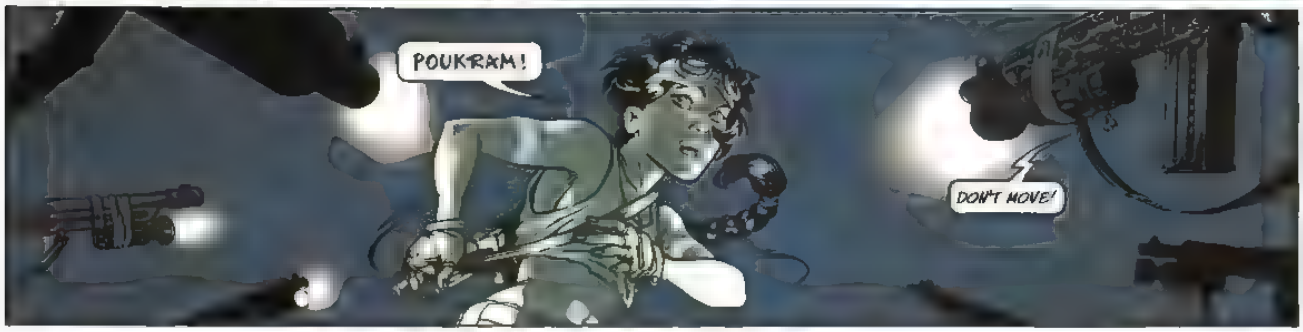
NO BUT IT'S VERY DANGEROUS


DON'T YOU WANT ME TO CARRY YOU. YOU HAVE A FEVER


MAKE SURE YOU WALK IN MY STEPS! DON'T WORRY ABOUT MY HEALTH!

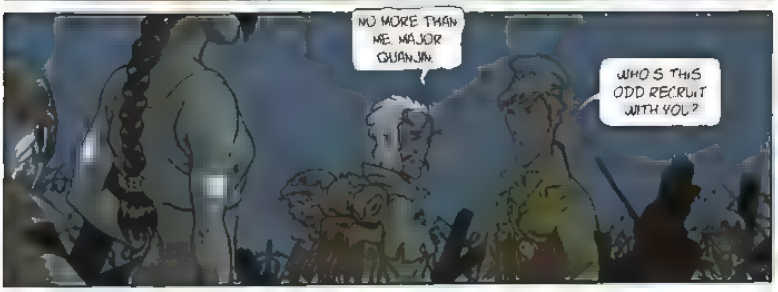

A MISSTEP AND WE LOSE OUR LEGS.. AT BEST

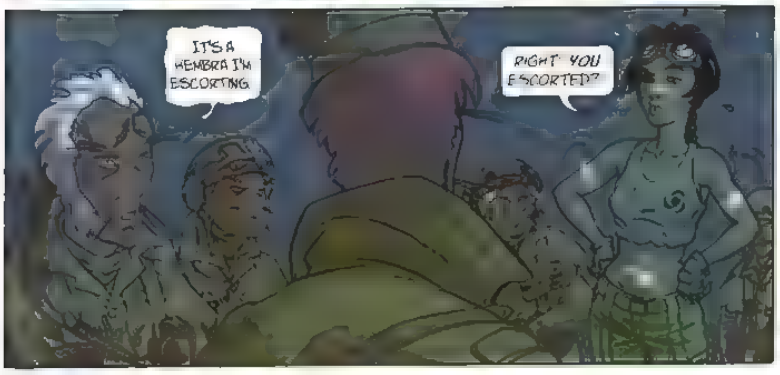

THE MINES HAVE NO PITY FOR THOSE WHO..


POUKRAM!
DON'T MOVE!

DON'T SHOOT!

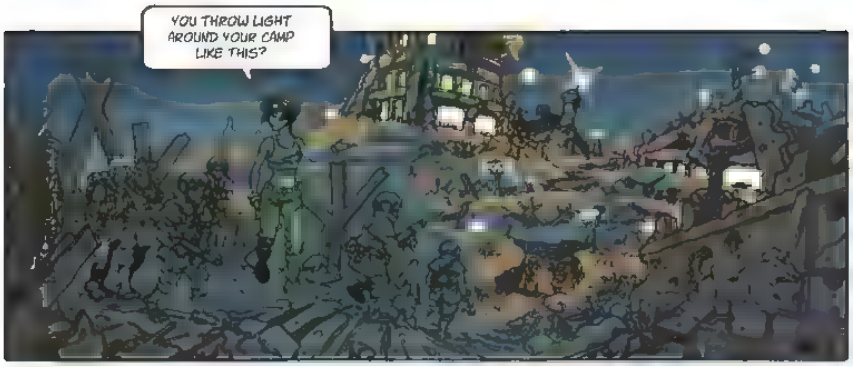
I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU ALIVE, CHIEF SERGEANT BERDSO.


NO MORE THAN ME, MAJOR QUANJIN.
WHO'S THIS ODD RECRUIT WITH YOU?


IT'S A HEMBRA I'M ESCORTING.
RIGHT. YOU ESCORTED?

THAT'S FUNNY. I'VE GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT IT'S YOU WHO'S "ODD".
IT'S REALLY A HEMBRA. AND NOT VERY PRETTY...

A FEMALE WITHOUT A MOUSTACHE IS A LITTLE SURPRISING.


YOU THROW LIGHT AROUND YOUR CAMP LIKE THIS?

...
HA! HA!
HE! HE!
OH SHE'S A GOOD ONE!
QUICK QUICK TURN OUT THE LIGHTS!
BEWARE OF MEKKAS!

WHY NOT?
WELL SOME MEKKAS, THEY COULD LOCATE YOU

AND THE MEKKA BLEW UP THEN, INSTEAD OF REGAINING HER VEHICLE, SHE BROUGHT ME HERE.

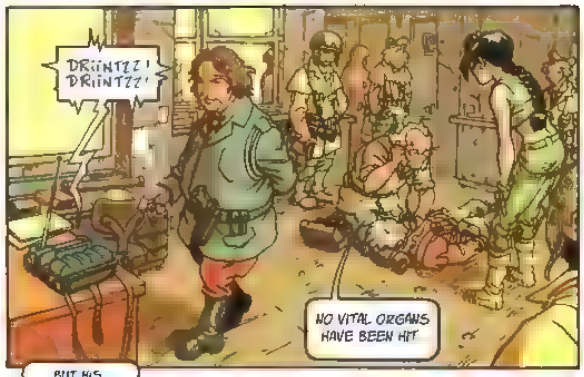
THIS HEMBRA SAVED MY LIFE. I PLACE HER IN YOUR CARE, NERGAL VALERYSS

HMM YOU CAN GET SOME REST, CHIEF SERGEANT

AS YOU COMMAND...

BERDSQ!

BERDSQ!!
LET ME EXAMINE HIM! I'M THE MEDIC!!


DRiiNTZZ! DRiiNTZZ!
NO VITAL ORGANS HAVE BEEN HIT

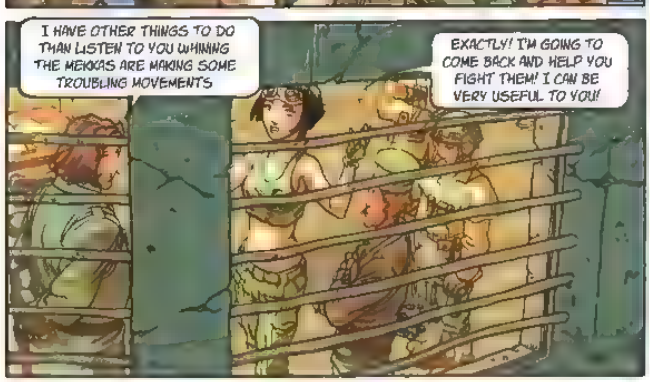
BUT HIS WOUNDS HAVE EXHAUSTED HIM HE'S STRONG, HE'LL MAKE IT. NICE JOB ON THE BANDAGES
NERGAL FRANSSY VALERYSS SPEAK

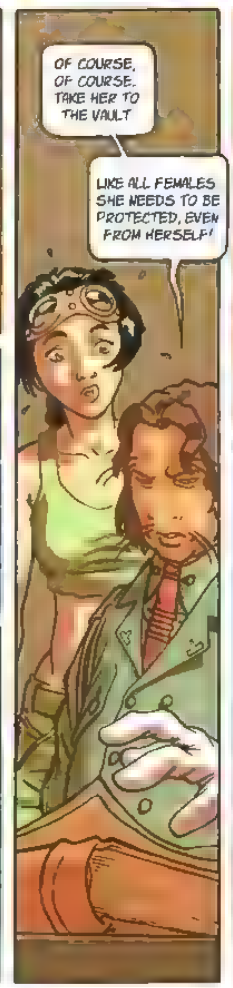
YOU'RE SURE THAT HE WILL BE ALRIGHT? YOU AREN'T SAYING THAT TO REASSURE ME?
KINDNESS HAS NO PLACE HERE, HEMBRA!
TROUBLING. VERY TROUBLING

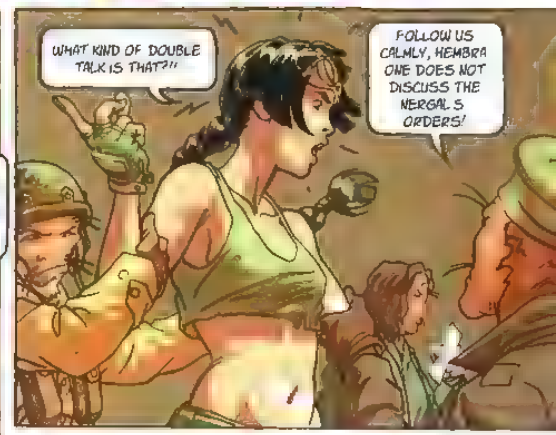
I WILL ADVISE THEM.
BRING HIM TO THE INFIRMARY

HUMPH!
GOOD. THEN I'M GOING TO GO AND FIND MY FRIEND AND MY SHIP. I ALSO HAVE TO GET MY SURVIPAK FROM THE RUINS WHERE YOUR MEN FOUND ME

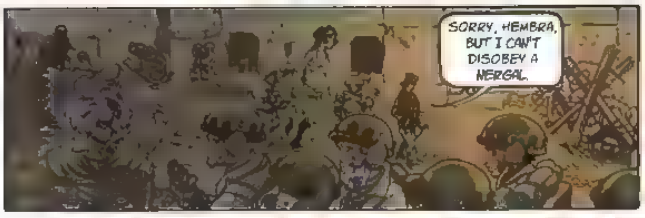
I NEED AN ESCORT TO GO BACK TO THE MOTOR CYCLE, AND A WEAPON I'LL RETURN AFTER I'VE.
EVEN IF SHE ISN'T AS PRETTY AS OURS. SHE REALLY IS A HEMBRA!

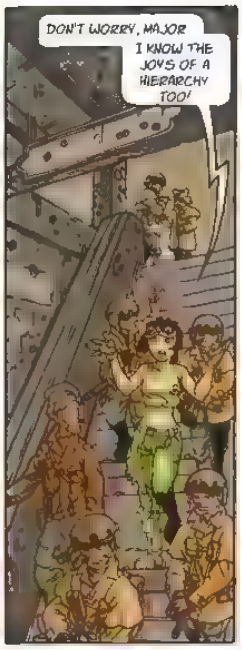

I HAVE OTHER THINGS TO DO THAN LISTEN TO YOU WHINING THE MEKKAS ARE MAKING SOME TROUBLING MOVEMENTS
EXACTLY! I'M GOING TO COME BACK AND HELP YOU FIGHT THEM! I CAN BE VERY USEFUL TO YOU!


OF COURSE, OF COURSE. TAKE HER TO THE VAULT
LIKE ALL FEMALES SHE NEEDS TO BE PROTECTED, EVEN FROM HERSELF!


WHAT KIND OF DOUBLE TALK IS THAT?!!
FOLLOW US CALMLY, HEMBRA ONE DOES NOT DISCUSS THE NERGAL'S ORDERS!

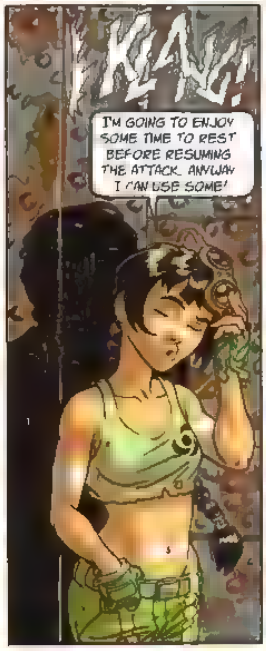
POUKRAM AND MORE POUKRAM! STUPID HIGH RANKED MALE CHAUVINIST!

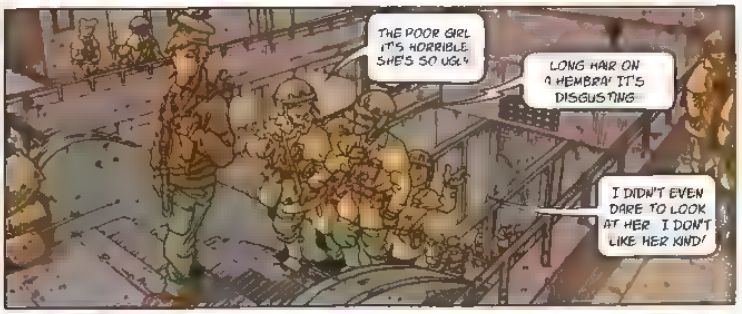

SORRY, HEMBRA, BUT I CAN'T DISOBEY A NERGAL


DON'T WORRY, MAJOR
I KNOW THE JOYS OF A HIERARCHY TOO!

I BROUGHT A HEMBRA NERGAL VALERYSS' ORDERS
WE WERE TOLD, MAJOR

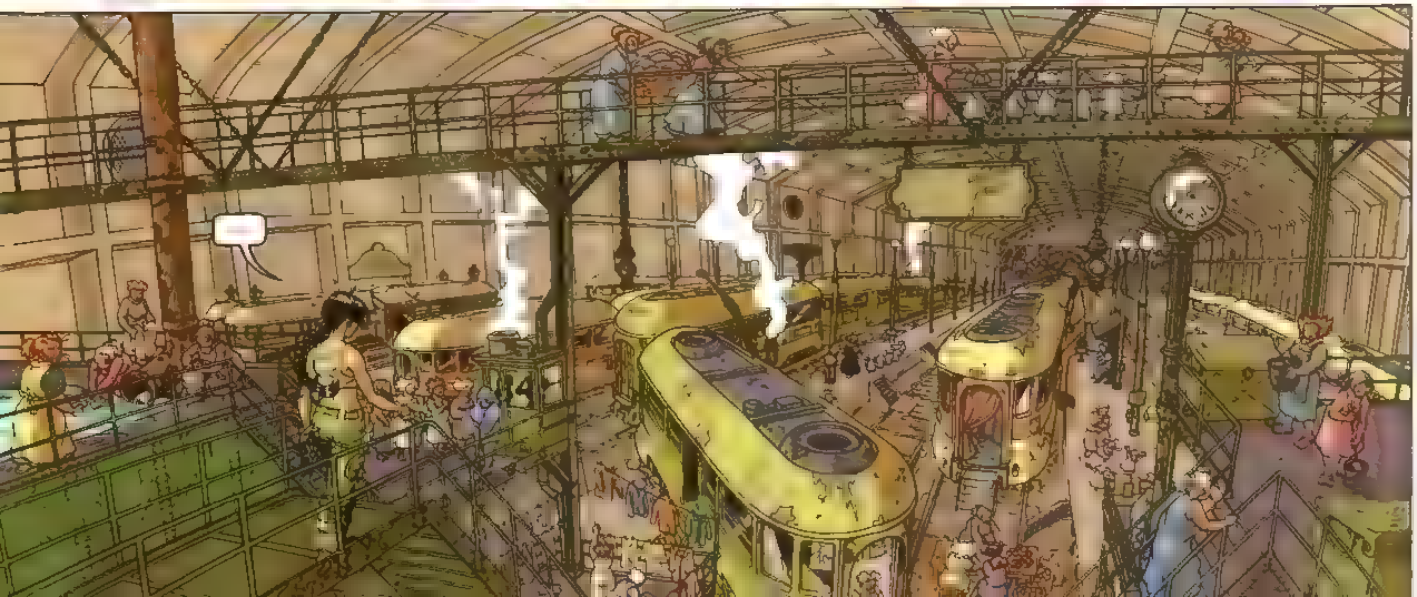
SKREE
WELL BE BRAVE
HA! HA! VERY FUNNY!
UNGH!


KLANG!
I'M GOING TO ENJOY SOME TIME TO REST BEFORE RESUMING THE ATTACK. ANYWAY I CAN USE SOME!


THE POOR GIRL IT'S HORRIBLE SHE'S SO UGLY
LONG HAIR ON A HEMBRA! IT'S DISGUSTING
I DIDN'T EVEN DARE TO LOOK AT HER. I DON'T LIKE HER KIND!

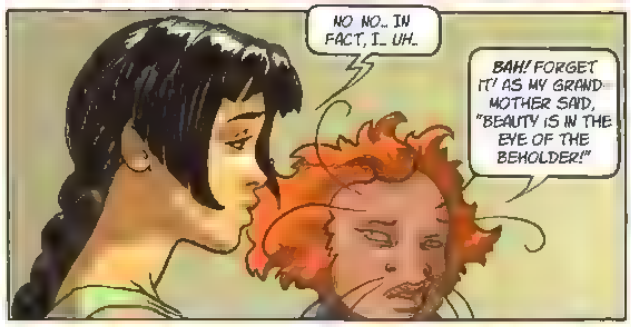
BAH! THAT'S ENOUGH
SHE'S KIND

!?

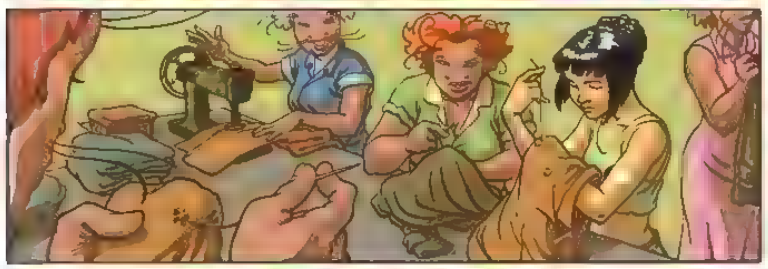


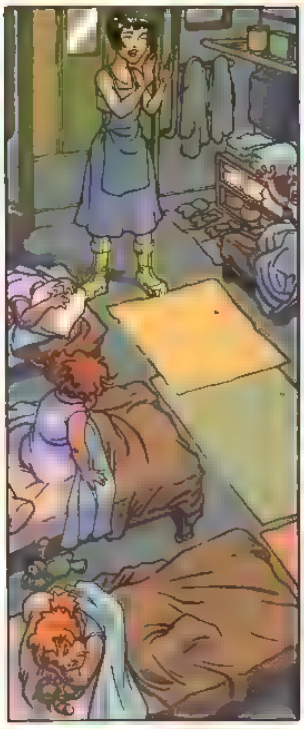
SO, MY BIG GIRL?! YOU THINK THAT YOU HAVE TIME TO DAYDREAM?

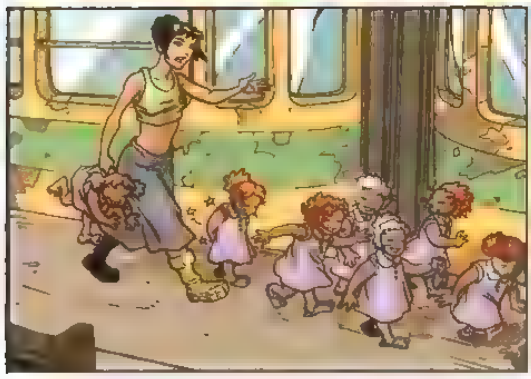
EXCUSE ME FOR SAYING THIS, BUT YOU ARE STRANGE, WERE YOU IN AN ACCIDENT?
WERE YOU BURNED? YOU WERE BORN LIKE THIS?
YOU'VE COME FROM ANOTHER GARRISON?

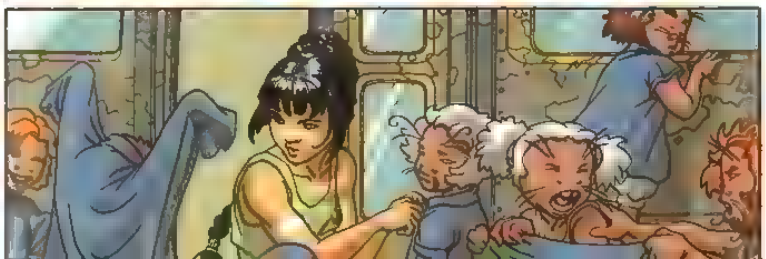

NO NO... IN FACT, I... UH...
BAH! FORGET IT! AS MY GRAND MOTHER SAID, "BEAUTY IS IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER!"

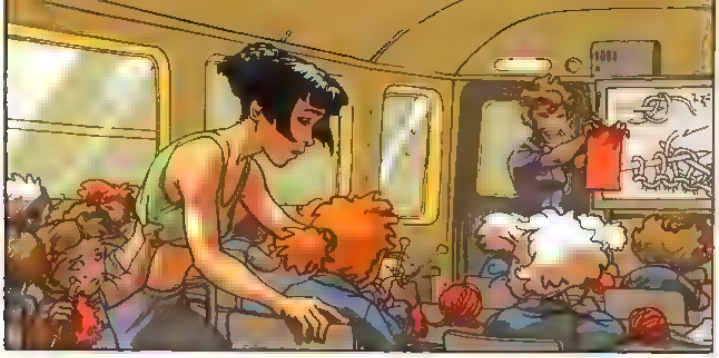
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
NAVIS
SO NAVIS, DO EVERYTHING LIKE I DO, AND ALL WILL GO WELL.

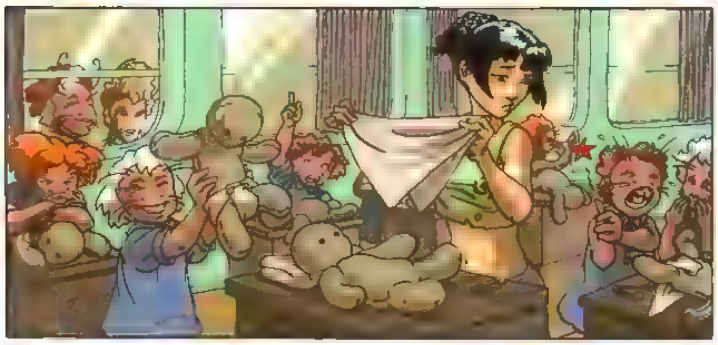


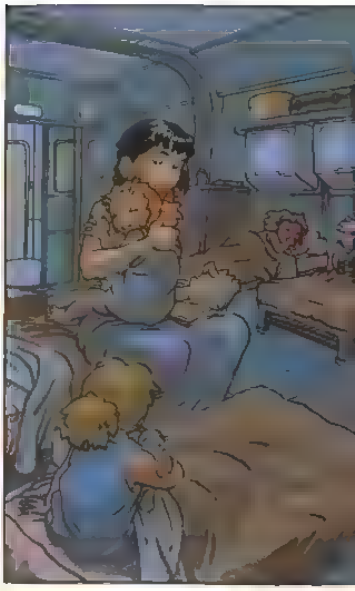


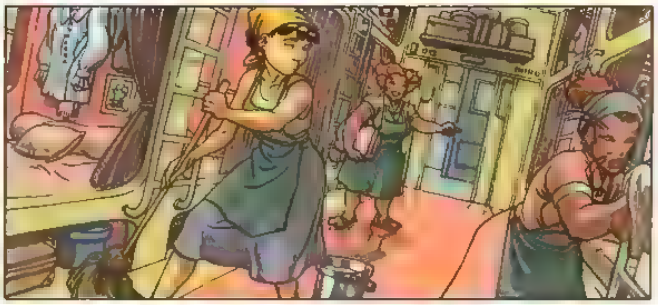


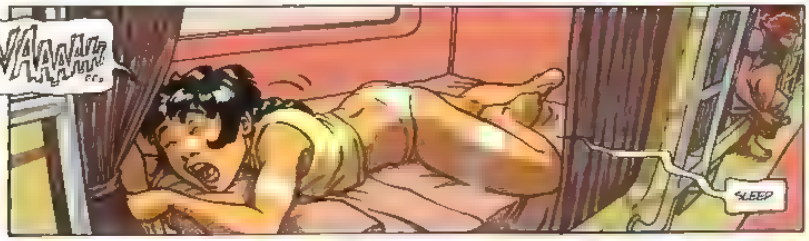


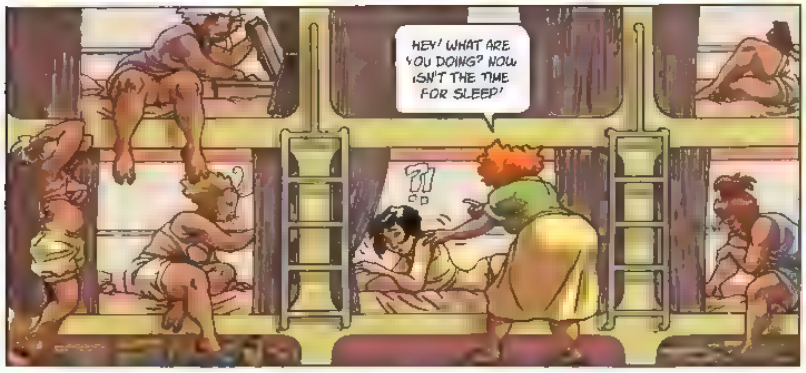




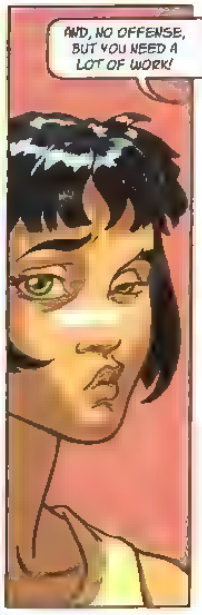


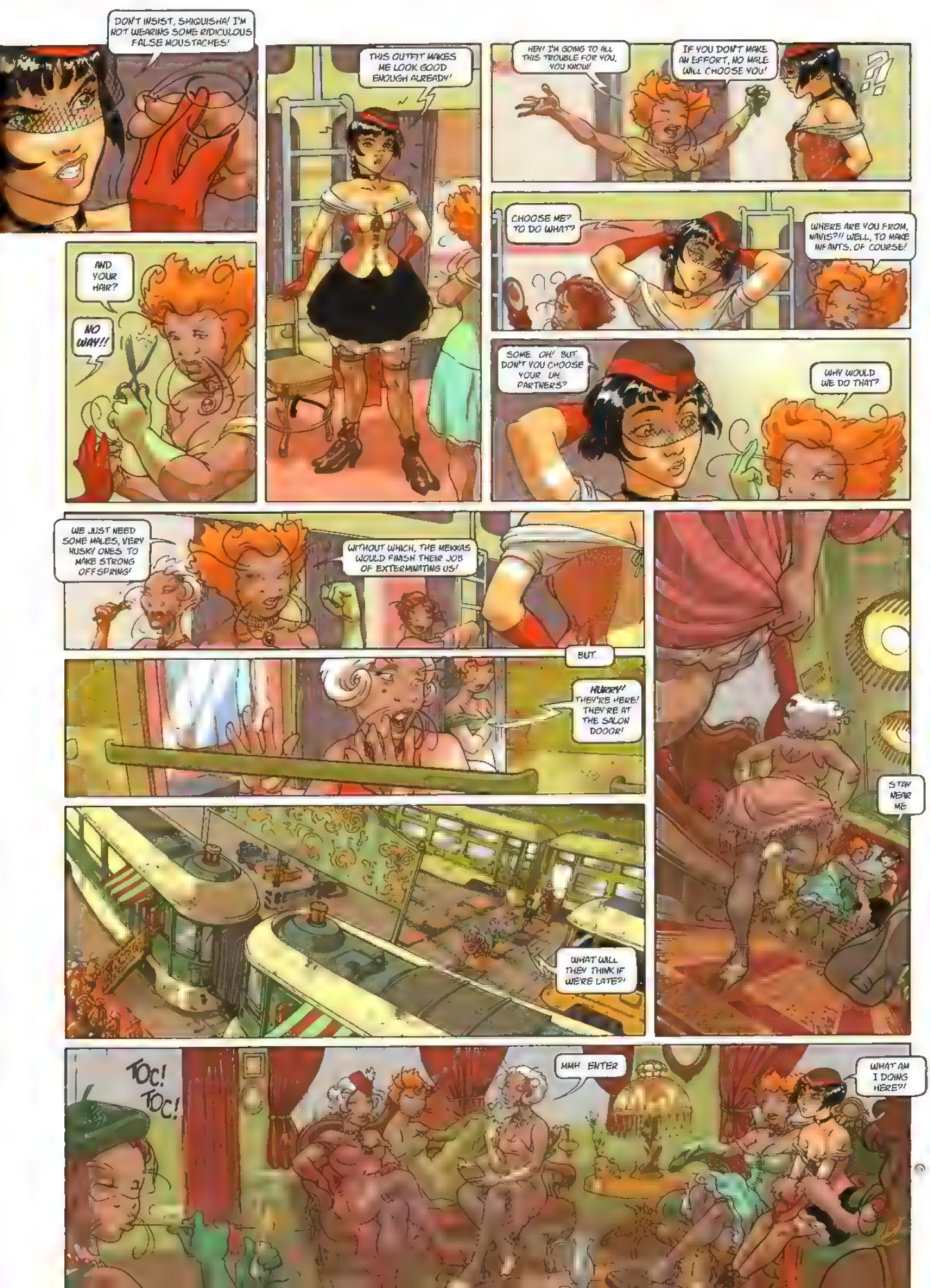



WAAAAAA...
SLEEP


HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? NOW ISN'T THE TIME FOR SLEEP!

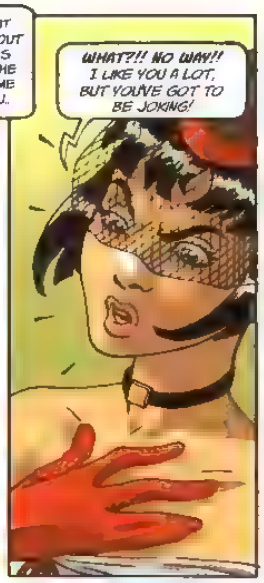
THE HEROS OF THE DAY ARE COMING FOR THEIR REWARD
WE HAVE MAKE OUR SELVES PRETTY


AND, NO OFFENSE, BUT YOU NEED A LOT OF WORK!


DON'T INSIST, SHIQUISHA! I'M NOT WEARING SOME RIDICULOUS FALSE MOUSTACHES!
THIS OUTFIT MAKES ME LOOK GOOD ENOUGH ALREADY!
HEY! I'M GOING TO ALL THIS TROUBLE FOR YOU, YOU KNOW!
IF YOU DON'T MAKE AN EFFORT, NO MALE WILL CHOOSE YOU!
?!
AND YOUR HAIR?
NO WAY!!
CHOOSE ME? TO DO WHAT?
WHERE ARE YOU FROM, NAVIS?!! WELL, TO MAKE INFANTS, OF COURSE!
SOME. OH! BUT DON'T YOU CHOOSE YOUR UH PARTNERS?
WHY WOULD WE DO THAT?
WE JUST NEED SOME MALES, VERY HUSKY ONES TO MAKE STRONG OFFSPRING!
WITHOUT WHICH, THE MEKKAS WOULD FINISH THEIR JOB OF EXTERMINATING US!
BUT
HURRY! THEY'RE HERE! THEY'RE AT THE SALON DOOOR!
STAY NEAR ME
WHAT WILL THEY THINK IF WE'RE LATE?!
TOC! TOC!
MMH ENTER
WHAT AM I DOING HERE?!

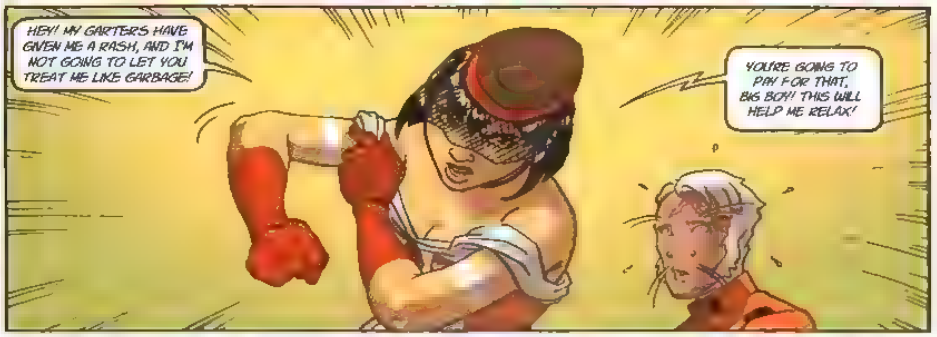
BERDSQ!!

WELL. NOW. YOU'RE HEALED SO SOON?
NOT TOTALLY, BUT WHEN I HEARD ABOUT NERGAL VALERYSS ORDER, I LEFT THE INFIRMARY TO COME AND CHOOSE YOU.

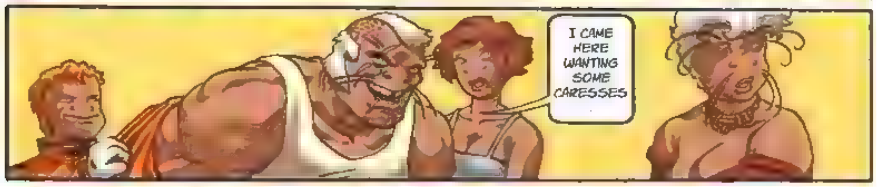

WHAT?!! NO WAY!! I LIKE YOU A LOT, BUT YOU'VE GOT TO BE JOKING!

UH! NO! NO OFFENSE, BUT I DON'T WANT TO DO UH. I JUST WANT TO PREVENT YOU FROM BEING CHOSEN BY SOMEONE WITH LESS HONORABLE INTENTIONS

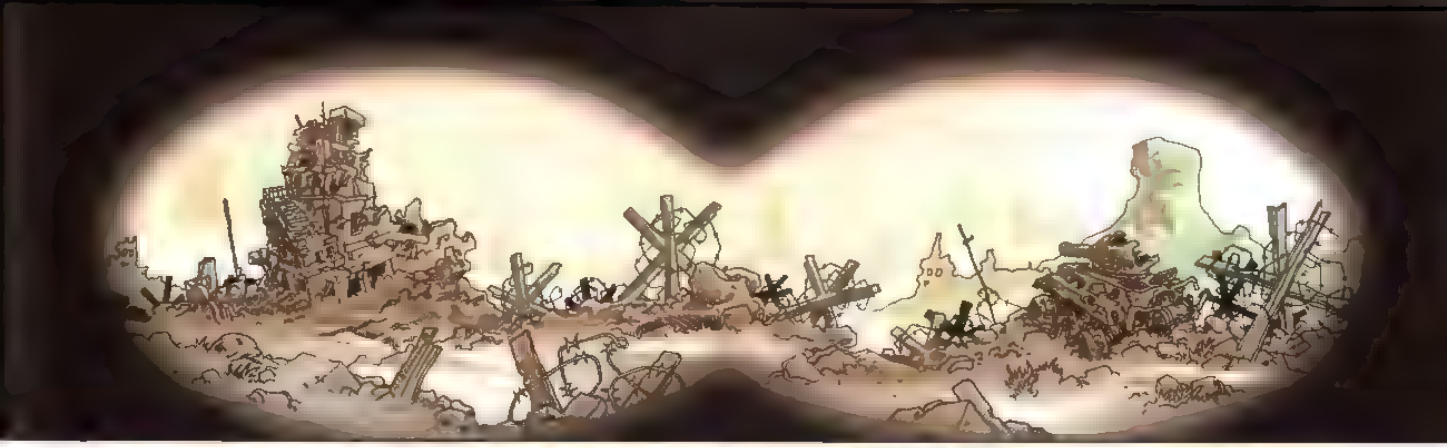
YOU COULD'VE STAYED IN BED BERDSQ! WHO WOULD WANT ANYTHING THAT UGLY?!!
HEY! BE POLITE!

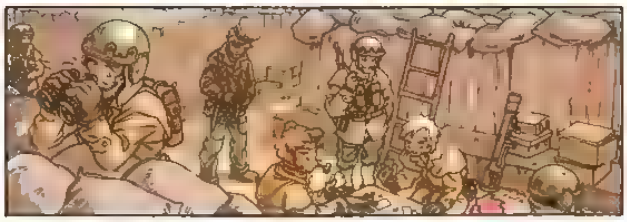

HEY! MY GARTERS HAVE GIVEN ME A RASH, AND I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU TREAT ME LIKE GARBAGE!
YOU'RE GOING TO PAY FOR THAT, BIG BOY! THIS WILL HELP ME RELAX!

WELL, SOMETHING HAS ANGERED THE LITTLE BITCH.


I CAME HERE WANTING SOME CARESSES

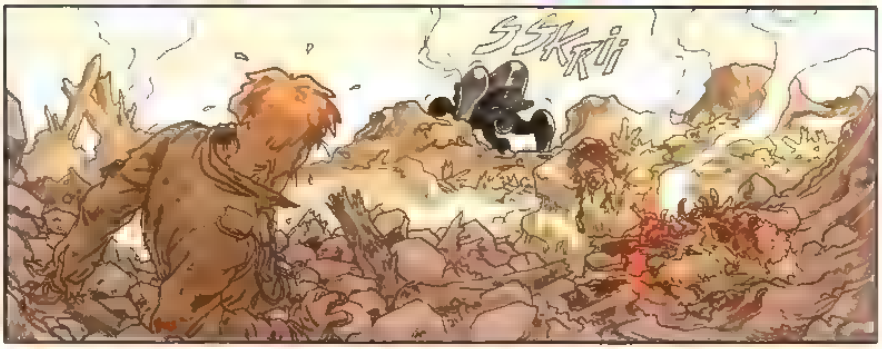
...BUT, IF THIS IS THE WAY YOU WANT IT
FOR HEMBRAS WHO DON'T KNOW HOW TO STAY IN THEIR PLACE, A SLAP IS EVEN BETTER!
KROK!



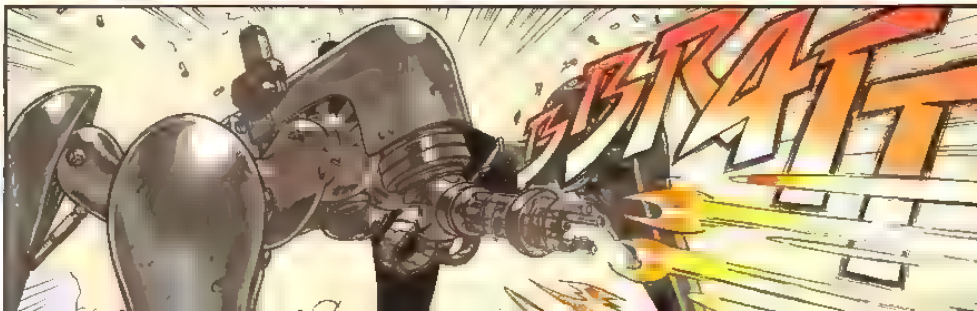


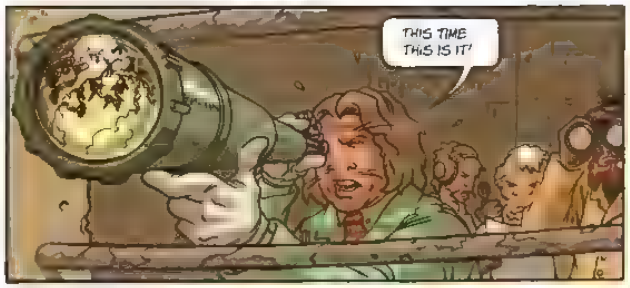
MORTARS!!

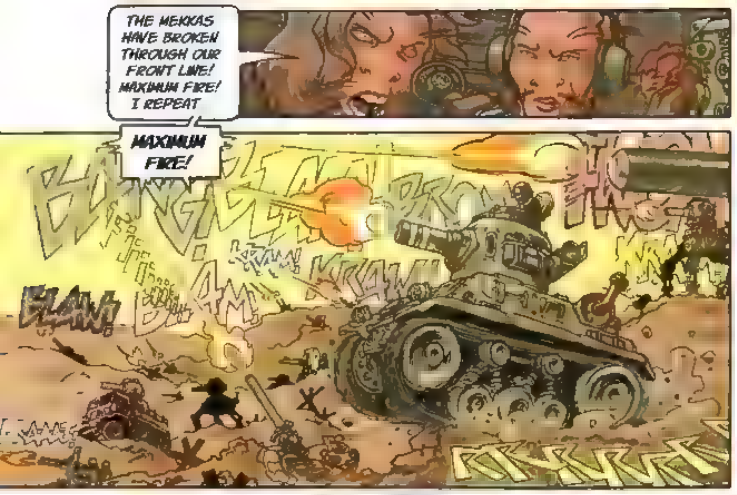
HUUUU

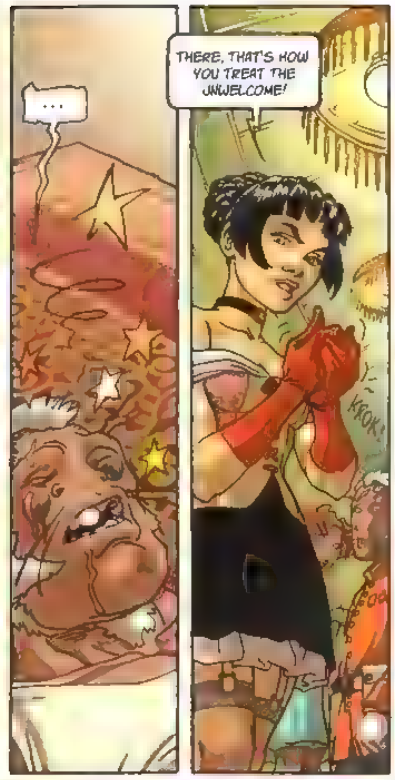

SSKRII

PAW! PAW! PAW!


BRAFF

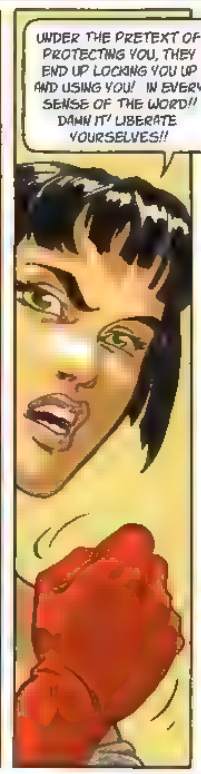

THIS TIME THIS IS IT!

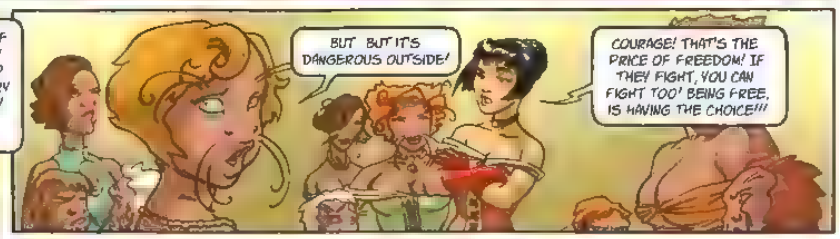

THE MEKKAS HAVE BROKEN THROUGH OUR FRONT LINE! MAXIMUM FIRE! I REPEAT
MAXIMUM FIRE!
BLAM!

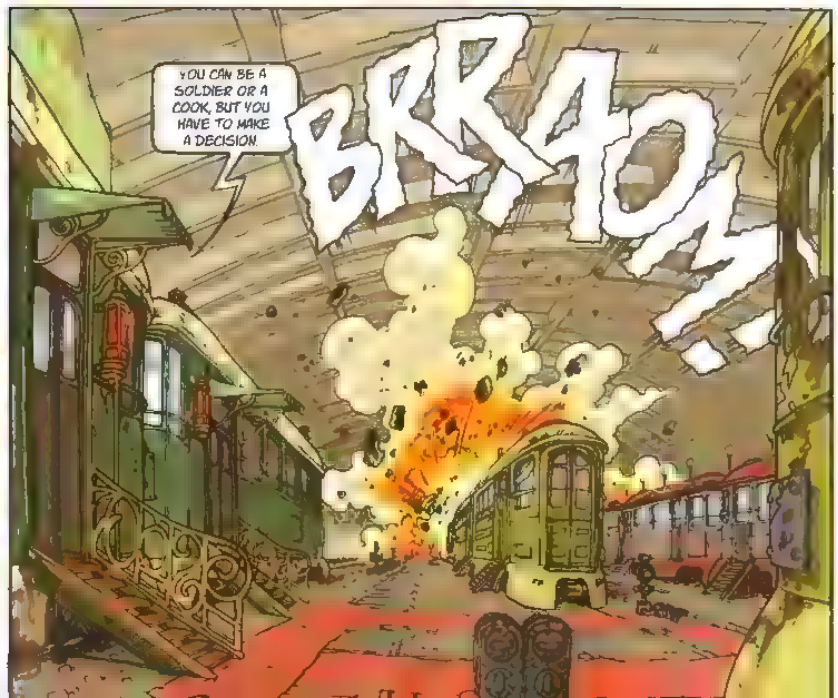

...
THERE, THAT'S HOW YOU TREAT THE UNWELCOME!
KROK!

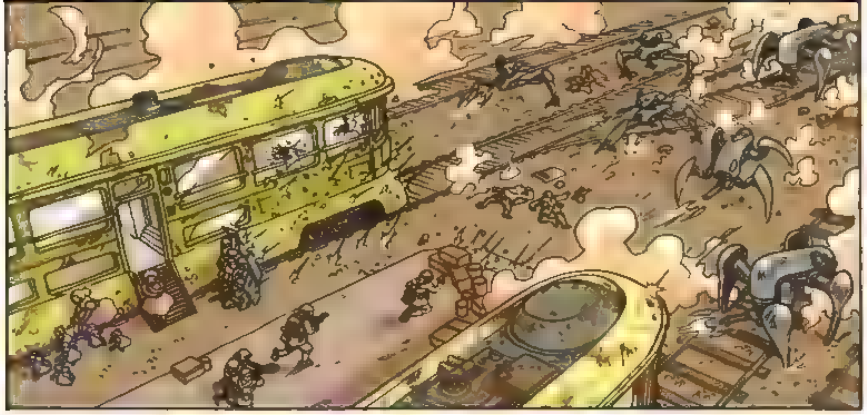
AND DON'T TELL ME THAT IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS AND THEY DO WHAT THEY HAVE TO DO. THERE'S NO EXECUTIONER WITHOUT A VICTIM!

WE CAN'T FIGHT AGAINST THE MALES!. THEY PROTECT US FROM THE MEKKAS...
RIGHT! THEY USE THAT ARGUMENT TO GIVE YOU ALL THE DIRTY JOBS, DON'T THEY!

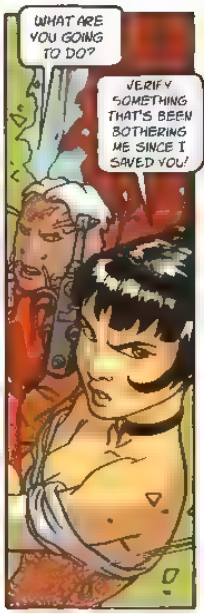

UNDER THE PRETEXT OF PROTECTING YOU, THEY END UP LOCKING YOU UP AND USING YOU! IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD!! DAMN IT! LIBERATE YOURSELVES!!


BUT... BUT IT'S DANGEROUS OUTSIDE!
COURAGE! THAT'S THE PRICE OF FREEDOM! IF THEY FIGHT, YOU CAN FIGHT TOO! BEING FREE, IS HAVING THE CHOICE!!!


YOU CAN BE A SOLDIER OR A COOK, BUT YOU HAVE TO MAKE A DECISION.
BRRAOM!

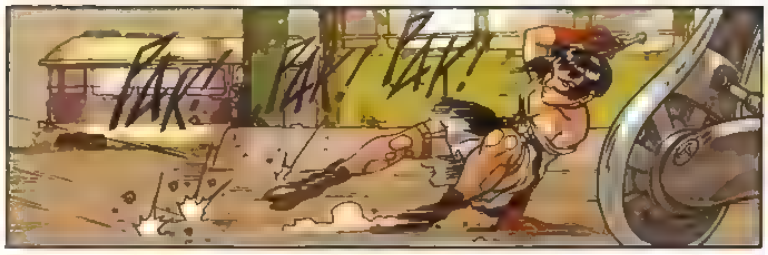


PAW!
PAW!
PAW!
GIVE ME YOUR PISTOL!


WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
VERIFY SOMETHING THAT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME SINCE I SAVED YOU!

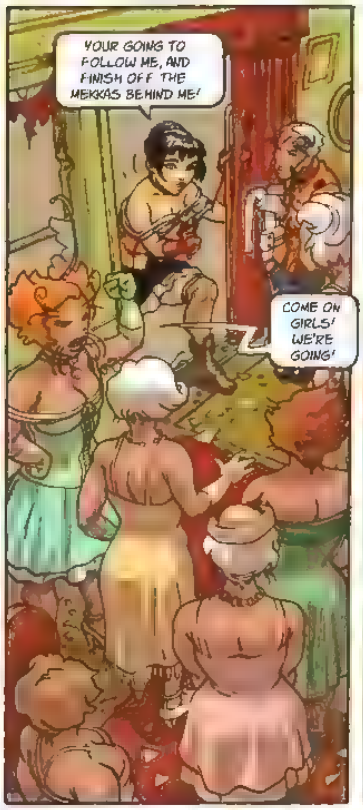
NAVIS, WAIT! DON'T

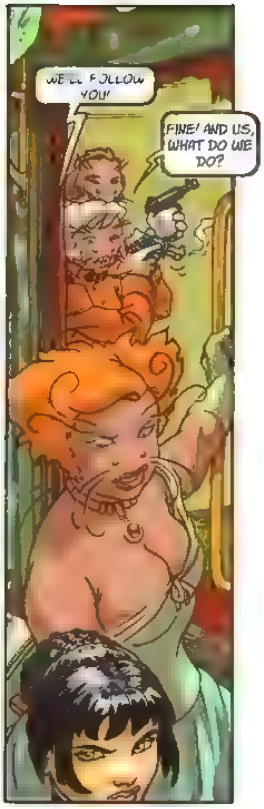
BRRR


PAK!
PAK!
PAK!

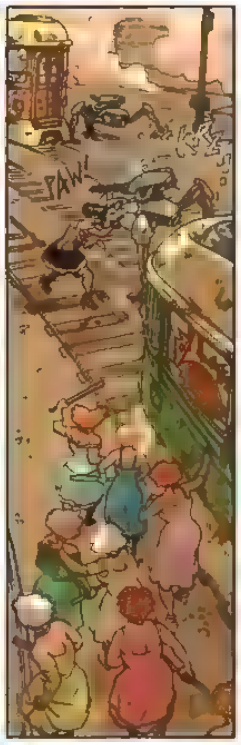
THESE MACHINES CAN'T SENSE MY PRESENCE. BUT A STRAY SHOT COULD KILL ME!

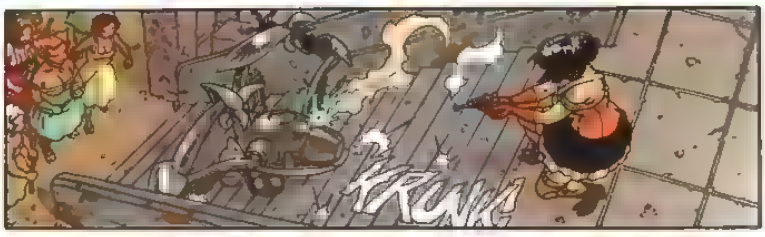
GIRLS!! IT'S NOW OR NEVER! PROVE TO THEM THAT YOU HAVE SOMETHING IN YOUR BELLIES OTHER THAN INFANTS!

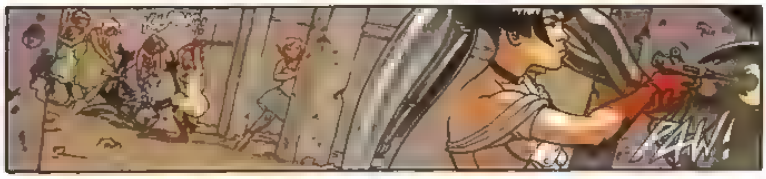

YOUR GOING TO FOLLOW ME, AND FINISH OFF THE MEKKAS BEHIND ME!
COME ON GIRLS! WE'RE GOING!


WE'LL FOLLOW YOU!
FINE! AND US, WHAT DO WE DO?

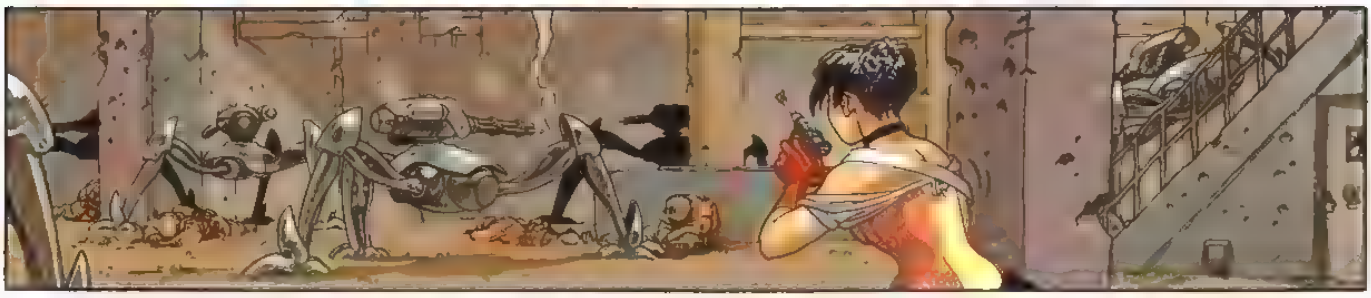
YOU, YOU STAY WITH THE INFANTS AND PROTECT THEM!
AND WELL! OR ELSE YOU'LL BE CELIBATE!!

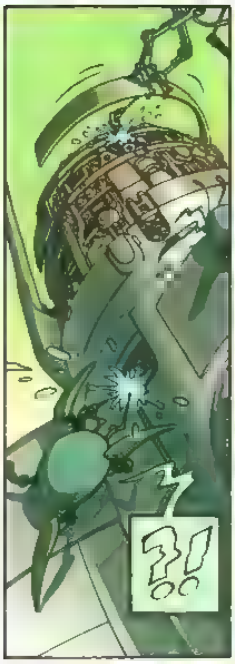

PAW!

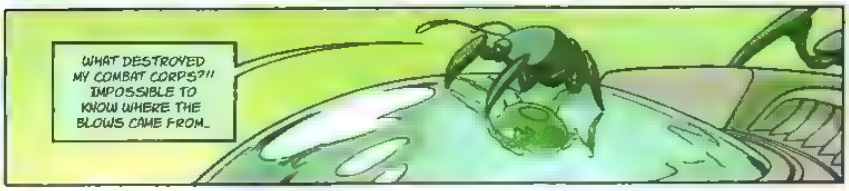

KRUNK!

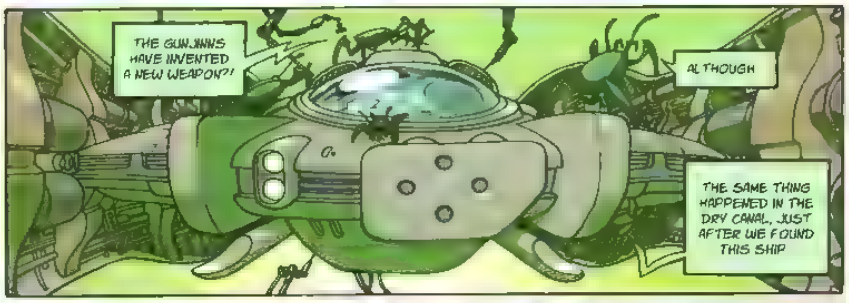

PAW!

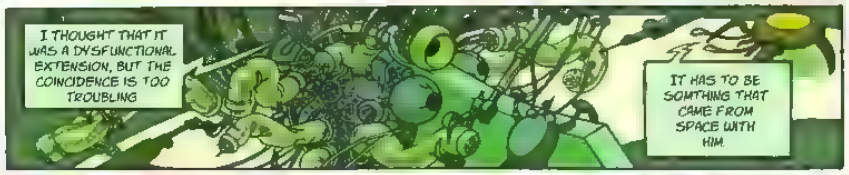
SKREEE

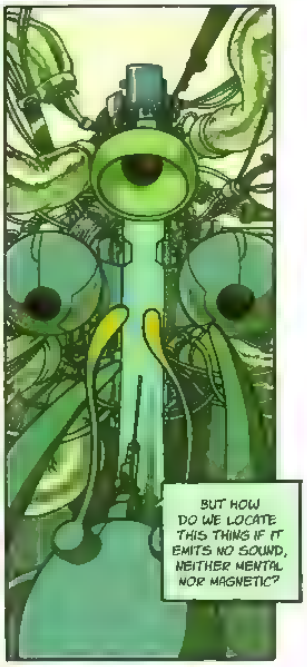


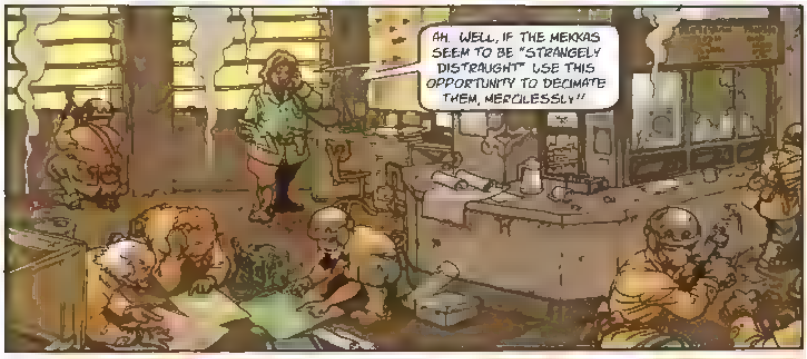

?!


WHAT DESTROYED MY COMBAT CORPS?! IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW WHERE THE BLOWS CAME FROM...

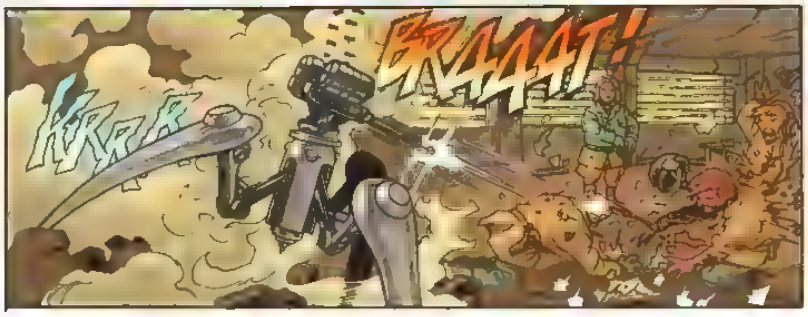

THE GUNJINNS HAVE INVENTED A NEW WEAPON?!
ALTHOUGH
THE SAME THING HAPPENED IN THE DRY CANAL, JUST AFTER WE FOUND THIS SHIP


I THOUGHT THAT IT WAS A DYSFUNCTIONAL EXTENSION, BUT THE COINCIDENCE IS TOO TROUBLING
IT HAS TO BE SOMTHING THAT CAME FROM SPACE WITH HIM.


BUT HOW DO WE LOCATE THIS THING IF IT EMITS NO SOUND, NEITHER MENTAL NOR MAGNETIC?

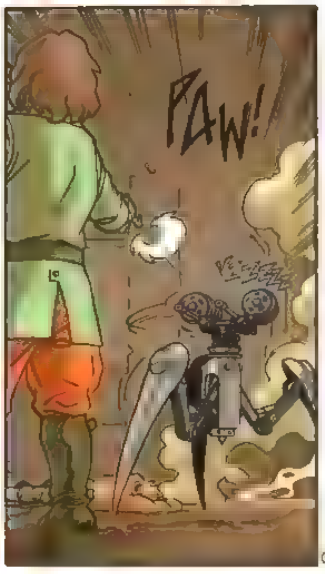

AH, WELL, IF THE MEKKAS SEEM TO BE "STRANGELY DISTRAUGHT" USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO DECIMATE THEM, MERCILESSLY!!

IT'S THE BIGGEST OFFENSIVE WE'VE EVER KNOWN! SO WE'LL FIND OUT WHY AFTER THE VICTORY! THIS HESITATION IS INSPIRING
BAKOM!


KRRR
BRAAAT!

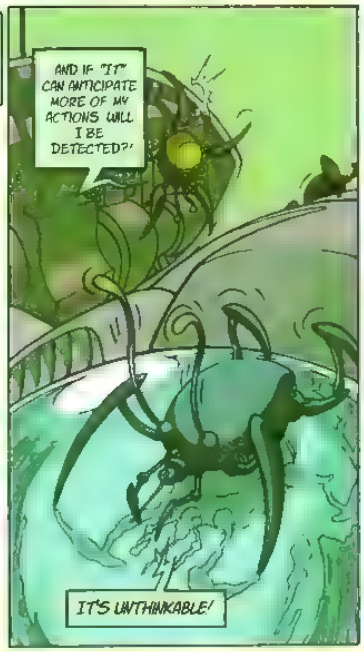
PAW!
BRAAT!

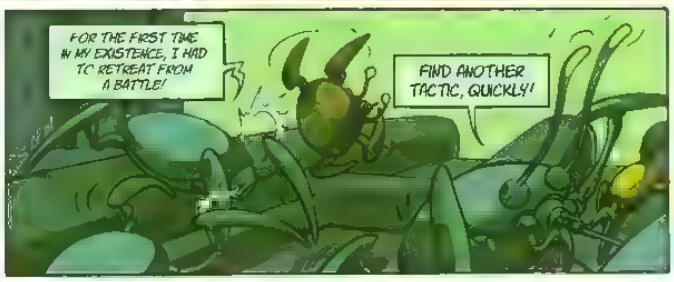
PAW!

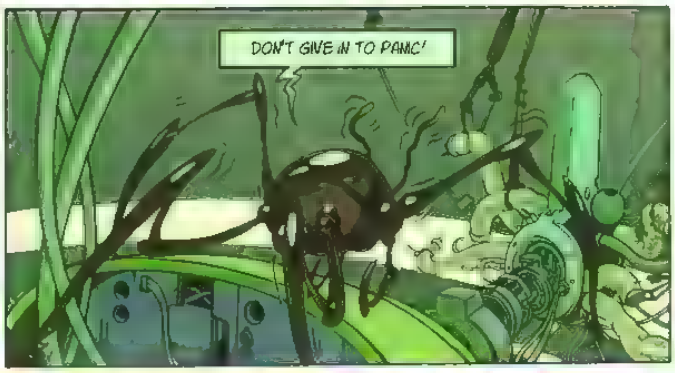

PAW!

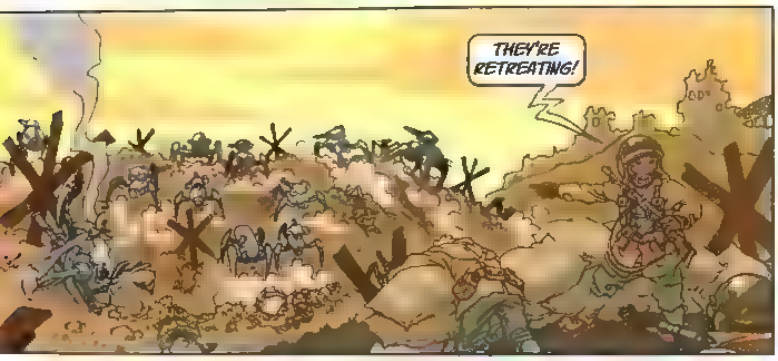
THANKS.

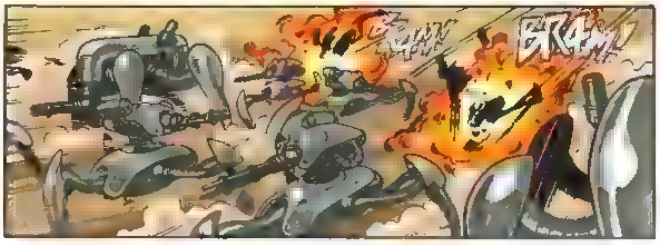
"IT" DESTROYED MY MASTERPIECE! THE ONE TASKED WITH KILLING THE GUNJIN NERGAL!

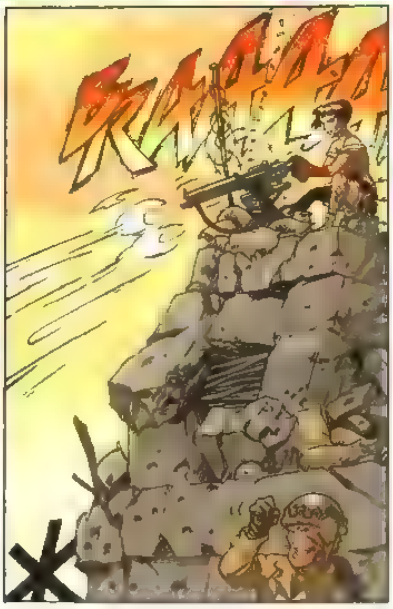

AND IF "IT" CAN ANTICIPATE MORE OF MY ACTIONS WILL I BE DETECTED?!
IT'S UNTHINKABLE!


FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY EXISTENCE, I HAD TO RETREAT FROM A BATTLE!
FIND ANOTHER TACTIC, QUICKLY!


DON'T GIVE IN TO PANIC!

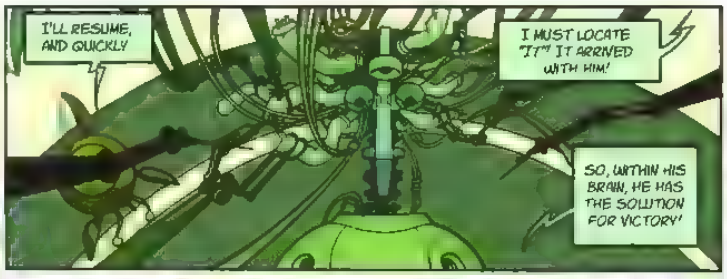

THEY'RE RETREATING!

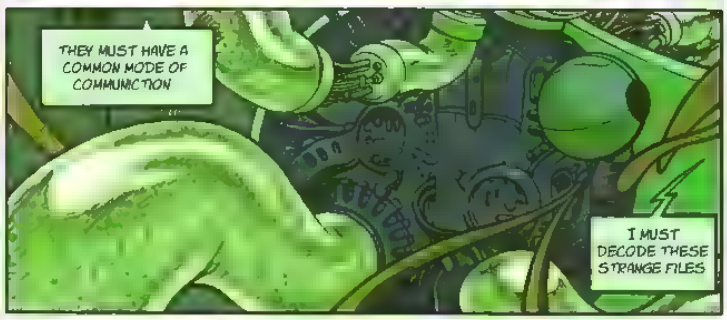

BRAW!

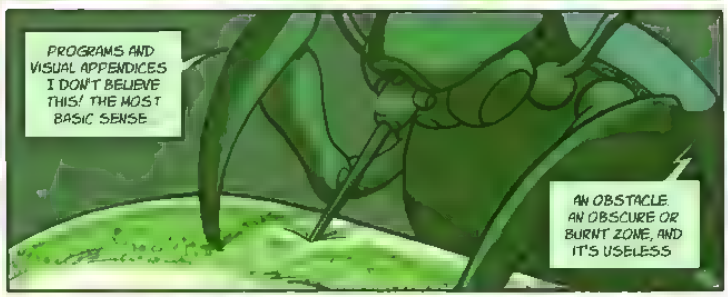


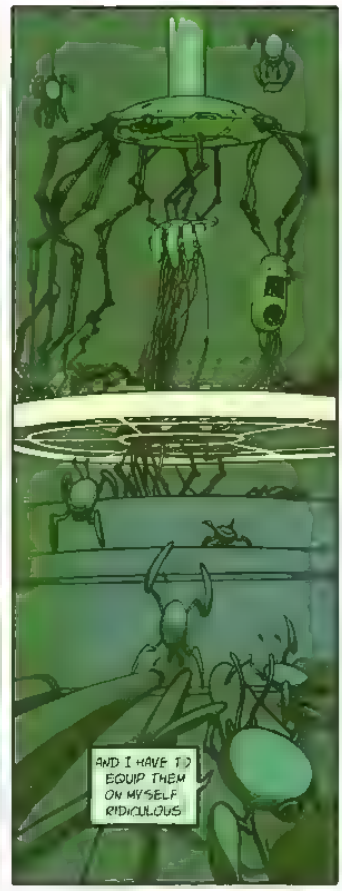
JUST LIKE IN TRAINING!

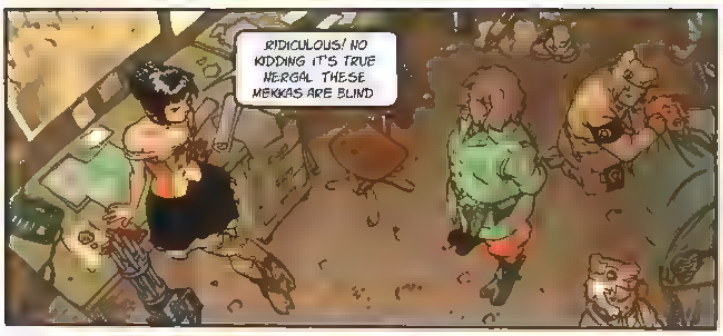
I HAVE LOST
MY FIRST DEFEAT
TO ACCUSTOMED TO WINNING ALL...
I'VE BEEN UNABLE TO MANAGE THE UNKNOWN


I'LL RESUME, AND QUICKLY
I MUST LOCATE "I" IT ARRIVED WITH HIM!
SO, WITHIN HIS BRAIN, HE HAS THE SOLUTION FOR VICTORY!


THEY MUST HAVE A COMMON MODE OF COMMUNICTION
I MUST DECODE THESE STRANGE FILES

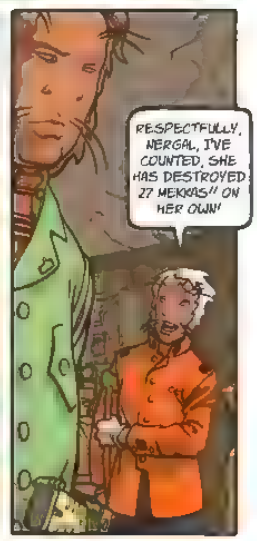

PROGRAMS AND VISUAL APPENDICES I DON'T BELIEVE THIS! THE MOST BASIC SENSE
AN OBSTACLE AN OBSCURE OR BURNT ZONE, AND IT'S USELESS

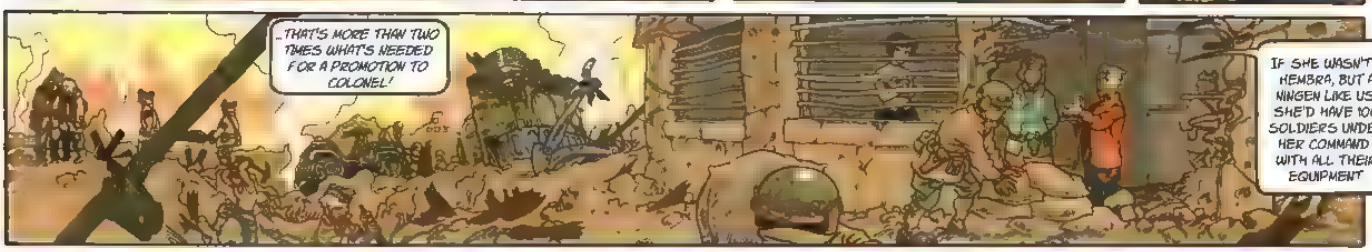

AND I HAVE TO EQUIP THEM ON MYSELF RIDICULOUS


RIDICULOUS! NO KIDDING IT'S TRUE NERGAL THESE MEKKAS ARE BLIND

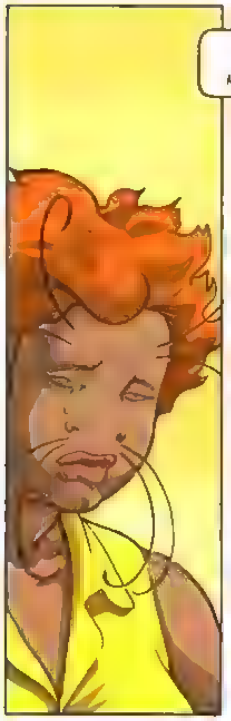
THEY MUST BE EQUIPPED TO CAPTURE THE MENTAL WAVES OF THEIR TARGETS, AND ALSO HAVE SOME DUMB ENVIRONMENTAL SENSORS
SINCE I'M PSY NEUTRAL, TO THEM I'M JUST A PART OF THE DECOR

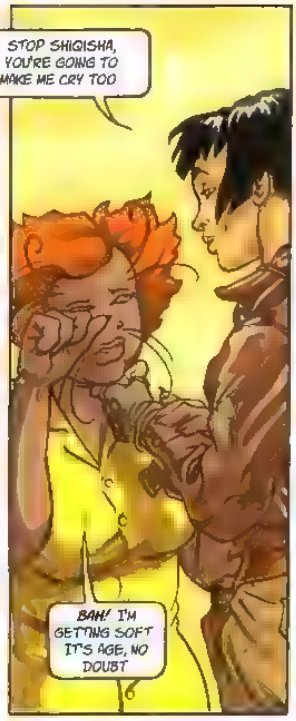
THAT GIVES ME A MAJOR ADVANTAGE OVER THEM. I'LL BE ABLE TO RECOVER MY FRIEND AND MY SHIP
BUT, TO DO IT I NEED YOU TO FINALLY AGREE TO GIVE ME A VEHICLE


RESPECTFULLY, NERGAL, I'VE COUNTED, SHE HAS DESTROYED 27 MEKKAS" ON HER OWN!


...THAT'S MORE THAN TWO TIMES WHAT'S NEEDED FOR A PROMOTION TO COLONEL!
IF SHE WASN'T A HEMBRA, BUT A NINGEN LIKE US, SHE'D HAVE 100 SOLDIERS UNDER HER COMMAND WITH ALL THEIR EQUIPMENT

THANK YOU FOR THE DETAILS OF OUR MILITARY REGULATIONS CHIEF SERGEANT
BUT, THAT HASN'T INFLUENCED MY DECISION. BECAUSE I'M GOING TO SAY YES!




STOP SHIGISHA, YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE ME CRY TOO
BAH! I'M GETTING SOFT IT'S AGE, NO DOUBT

SWEAR TO ME THAT YOU'LL TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF
POUT POUT.
I PROMISE YOU, I WON'T MAKE IT EASY FOR THEM TO KILL ME..

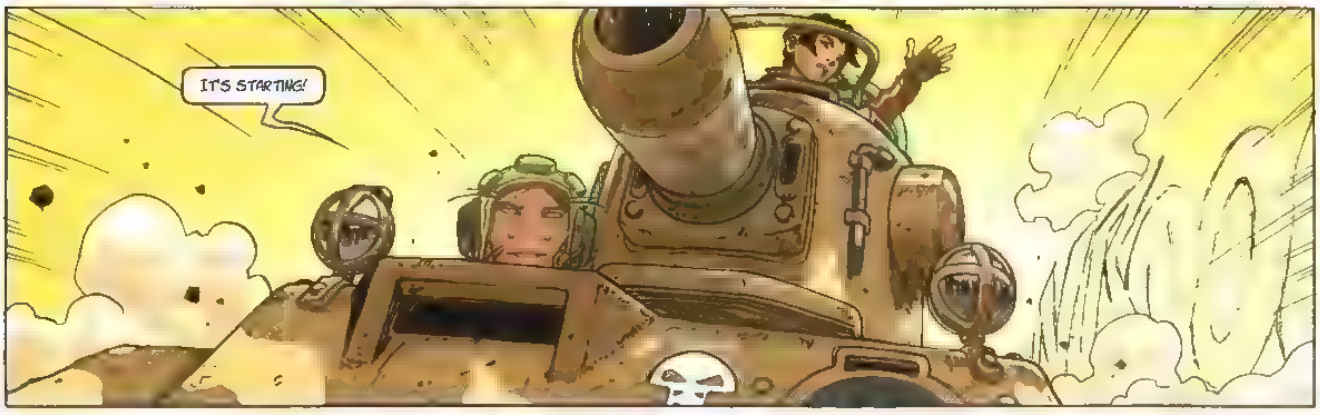
BUT, ON ONE CONDITION.

THAT YOU NEVER LET YOURSELVES BE LOCKED UP AGAIN!
EVEN IF THEY SAY IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!!

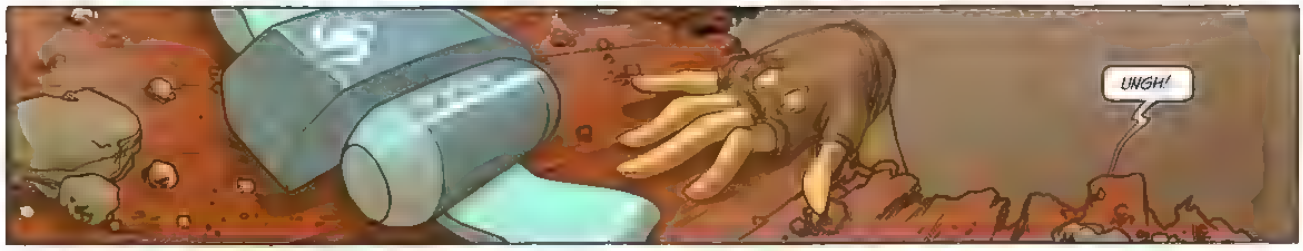
AND ABOVE ALL, IF THEY SAY IT!!

CENTURIES OF CONDITIONING AREN'T EASY TO ERASE YOU KNOW, BUT WE'LL DO OUR BEST!

TAP!
TAP!
LET'S GO BERDSO!

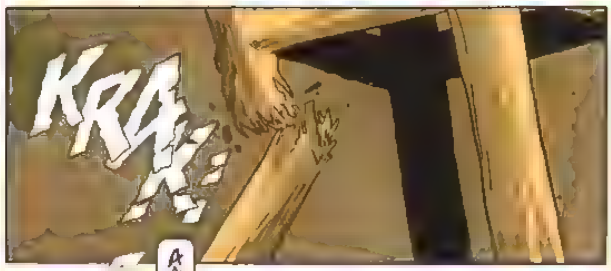

IT'S STARTING!

HUMPH!
YOU LITTLE BOYS, YOU'RE GOING TO DEVELOPE YOUR FEMININE SIDES HUH?!

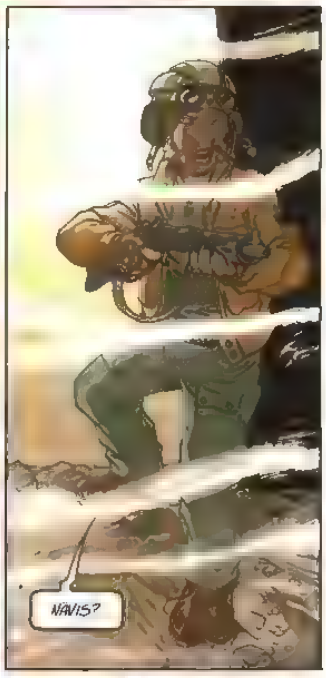

UNGH!

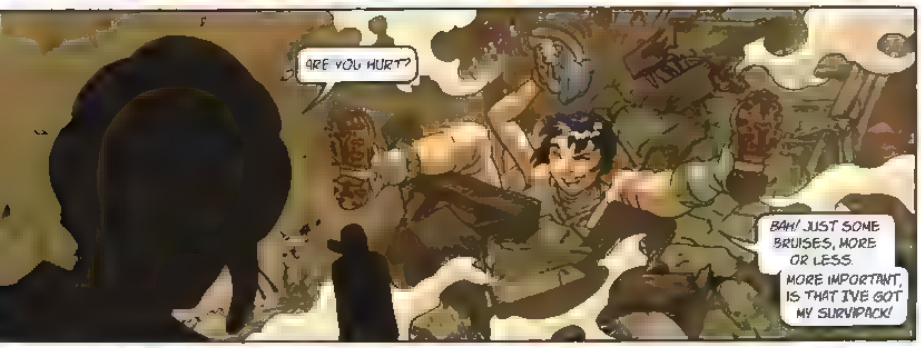
ALMOST...
ALMOST

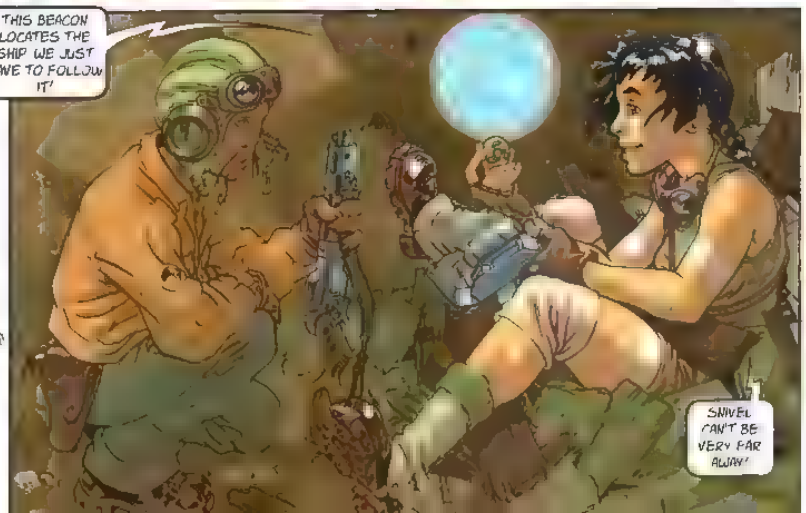
GOT IT!!


KRA

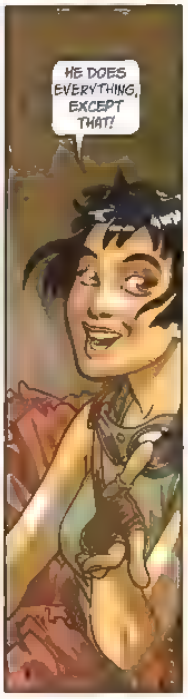
AAAAA!
NÄVIS!!
KRAK!
BLANG!

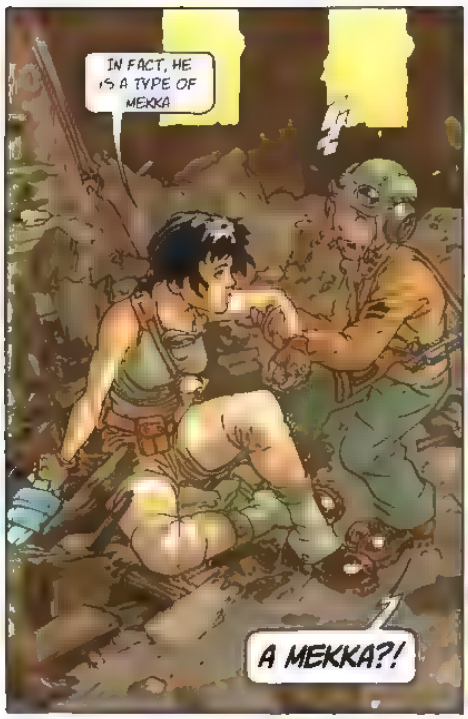

NÄVIS?

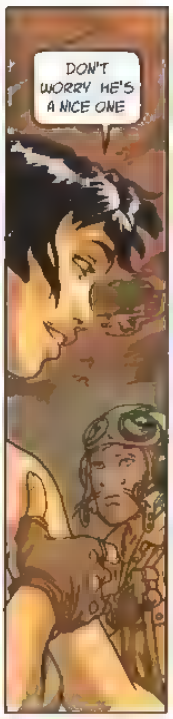

ARE YOU HURT?
BAH! JUST SOME BRUISES, MORE OR LESS.
MORE IMPORTANT, IS THAT I'VE GOT MY SURVIPACK!

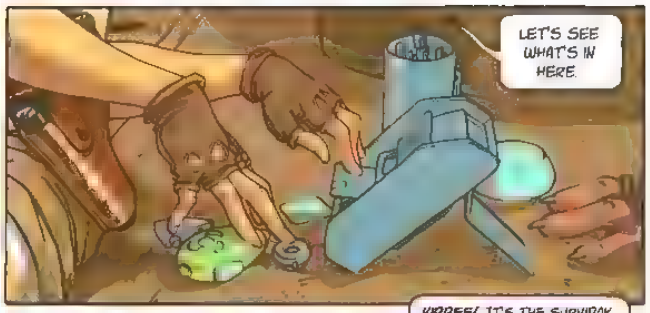

THIS BEACON LOCATES THE SHIP WE JUST HAVE TO FOLLOW IT!
SNIVEL CAN'T BE VERY FAR AWAY!

SNIVEL... HE'S UH... HE'S YOUR BOYFRIEND?
HA! HA! HA!
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH

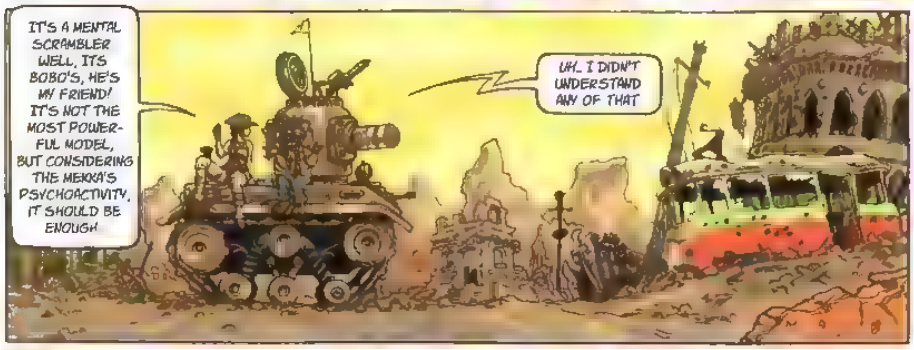

HE DOES EVERYTHING, EXCEPT THAT!


IN FACT, HE IS A TYPE OF MEKKA
A MEKKA?!

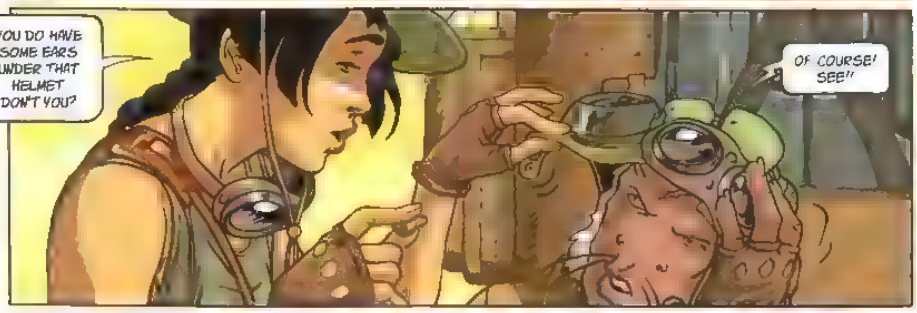

DON'T WORRY HE'S A NICE ONE


LET'S SEE WHAT'S IN HERE

YIPPEE! IT'S THE SURVIPAK FROM OUR PREVIOUS MISSION! THIS IS THE SECOND TIME THAT NOT RESPECTING THE RULES HAS BROUGHT ME SOME LUCK!
WHAT IS IT?


IT'S A MENTAL SCRAMBLER WELL, IT'S BOBO'S, HE'S MY FRIEND! IT'S NOT THE MOST POWERFUL MODEL, BUT CONSIDERING THE MEKKA'S PSYCHOACTIVITY, IT SHOULD BE ENOUGH
UH... I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF THAT

SLIP THIS IN, AND YOU'LL BE AS INVISIBLE TO OUR ENEMIES AS I AM!


YOU DO HAVE SOME EARS UNDER THAT HELMET DON'T YOU?
OF COURSE! SEE!!

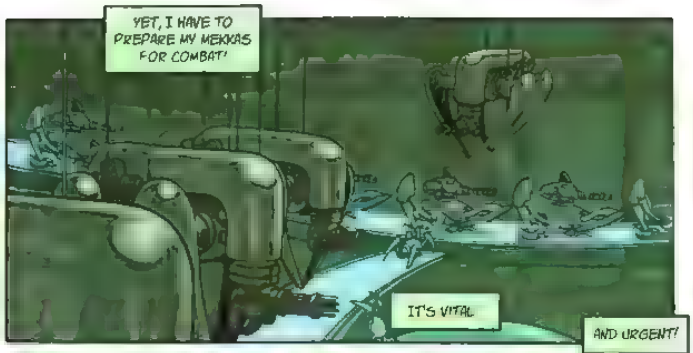
SORRY, ABOUT THE BAD JOKES
HERE! TAKE ONE OF THESE PILLS, IT WILL KEEP YOU ALERT!

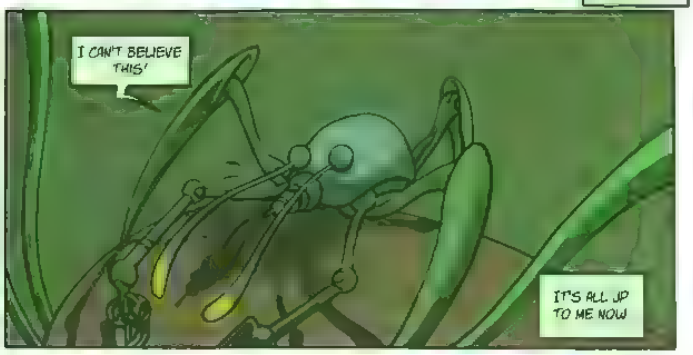
NOW, WE'RE GOING TO INTRODUCE OURSELVES INTO THE BELLY OF THE MONSTER, WITHOUT THEM EVEN KNOWING IT!

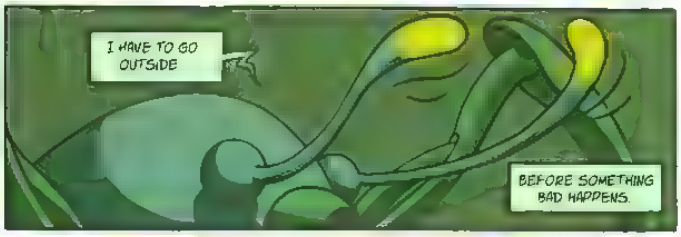
HOPEFULLY IT DOESN'T SECRETE TOO MUCH GASTRIC JUICE!

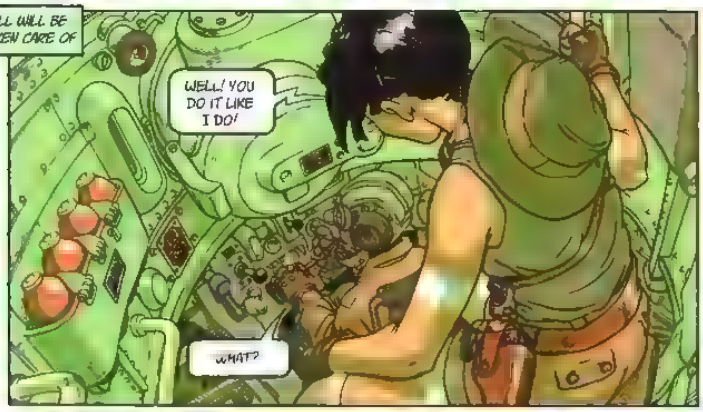
SIGH!
IT'S REALLY HARDER TO ACQUIRE THAN I THOUGHT

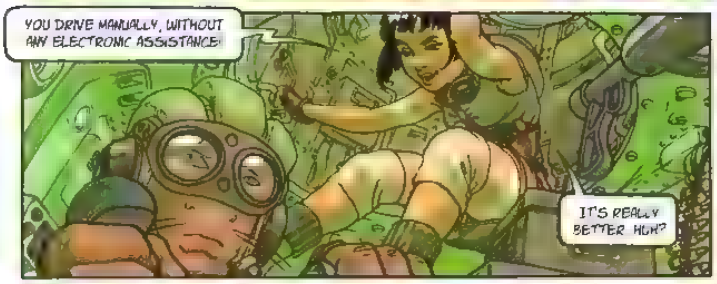
I NEVER MANAGED TO CONCEPTUALIZE THE PHENOMENON
NOR OF EVEN REPRODUCING IT

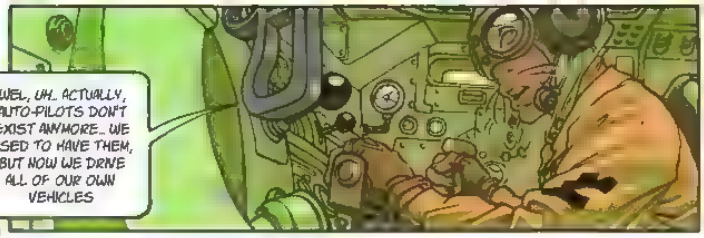

YET, I HAVE TO PREPARE MY MEKKAS FOR COMBAT!
IT'S VITAL
AND URGENT!

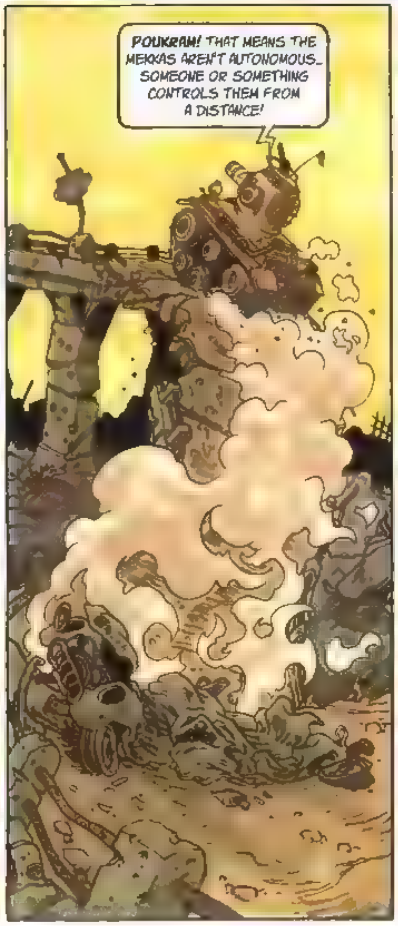

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
IT'S ALL UP TO ME NOW

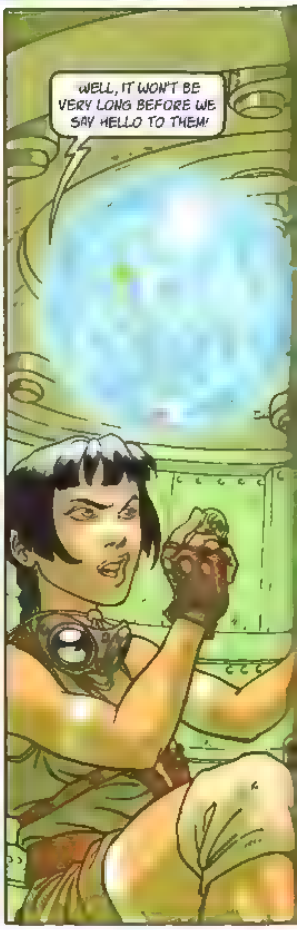

I HAVE TO GO OUTSIDE
BEFORE SOMETHING BAD HAPPENS


ALL WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF
WELL! YOU DO IT LIKE I DO!
WHAT?


YOU DRIVE MANUALLY, WITHOUT ANY ELECTRONIC ASSISTANCE!
IT'S REALLY BETTER, HUH?


WEL, UH.. ACTUALLY, AUTO-PILOTS DON'T EXIST ANYMORE.. WE USED TO HAVE THEM, BUT NOW WE DRIVE ALL OF OUR OWN VEHICLES


POUKRAM! THAT MEANS THE MEKKAS AREN'T AUTONOMOUS.. SOMEONE OR SOMETHING CONTROLS THEM FROM A DISTANCE!


WELL, IT WON'T BE VERY LONG BEFORE WE SAY HELLO TO THEM!

POUKRAM! A MEKKA CAMP!

I'VE NEVER SEEN SO MANY!

WE'RE NOT GOING TO FOLLOW THE RIDGE?

THAT WOULD BE A SHAME! THEY SEEM READY TO BE HARVESTED!

THEY AREN'T AWARE OF US! IT'S TIME TO AMUSE OURSELVES A LITTLE...

AND DO SOME MAJOR DAMAGE, ISN'T IT?!!

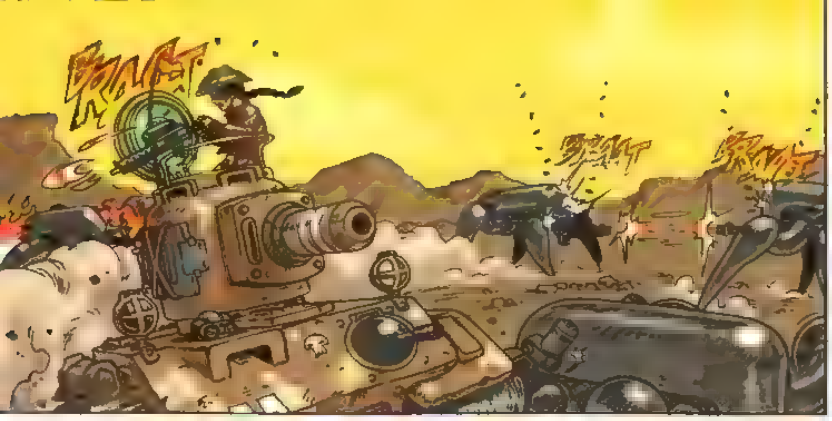
YAHOO! MOVE IT LITTLE TANK!

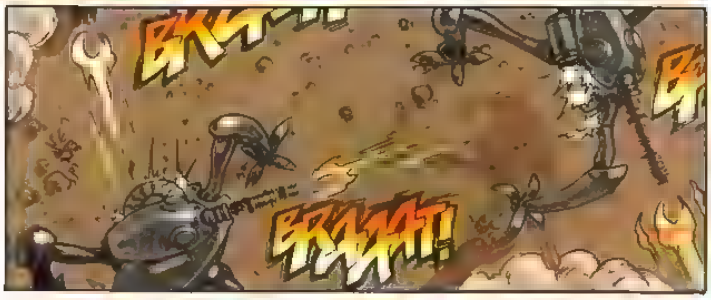
"IT" S VERY CLOSE

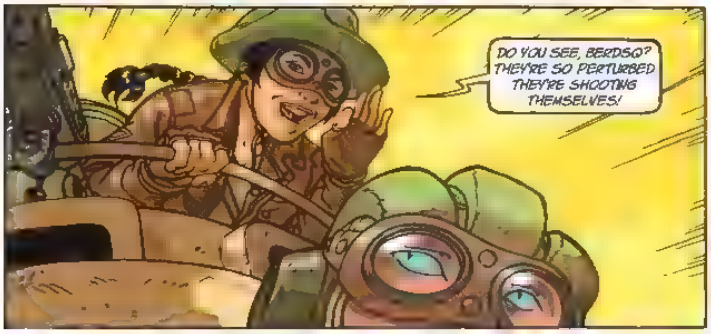
AND MAKING A MASSACRE IN THE HEART OF MY TROOPS

BUT "IT" IS A LITTLE TOO ARROGANT

I'M GOING TO SHOW "IT" WHAT WE OFTEN GAIN BY BEING DISCRETE!

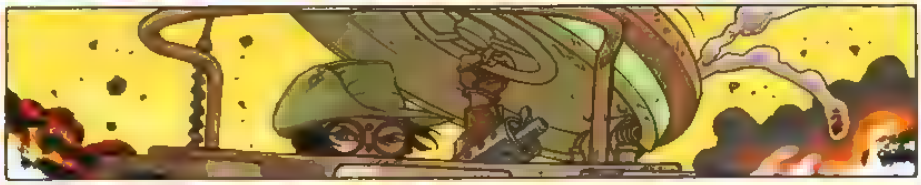

BRAAT
BRAAT
BRAAT


BRAAAT!

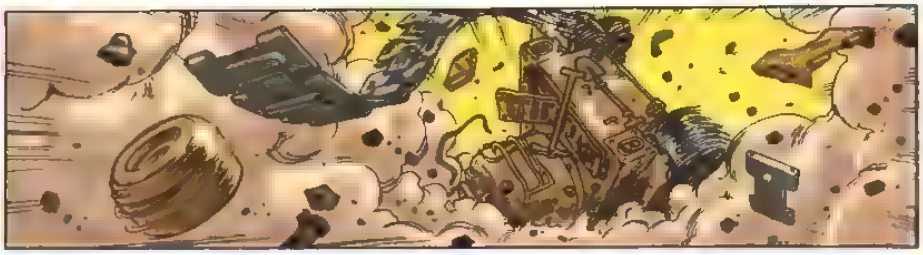

DO YOU SEE, BERDSO? THEY'RE SO PERTURBED THEY'RE SHOOTING THEMSELVES!

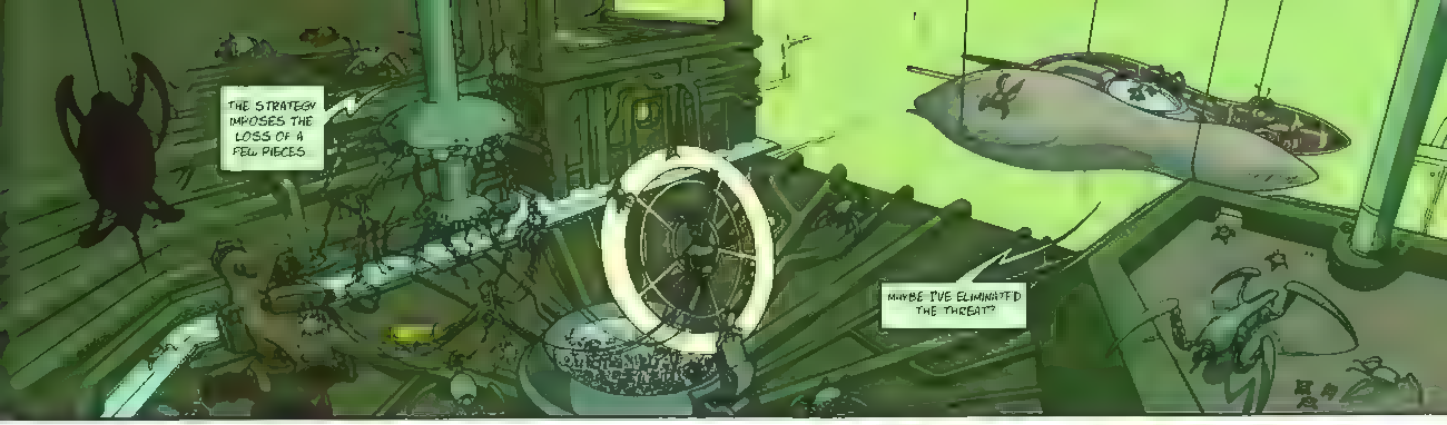
I DON'T THINK THAT THEY'RE PANICKING NÄVIS!

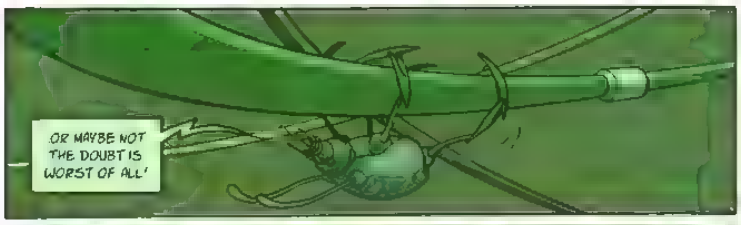
NÄVIS! CLOSE YOUR HATCH!!

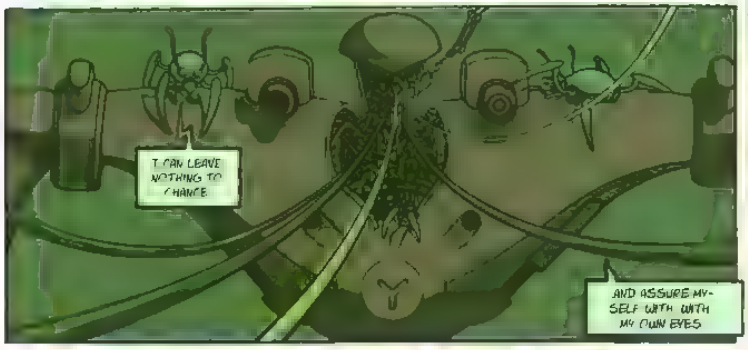


BOUWRAM!



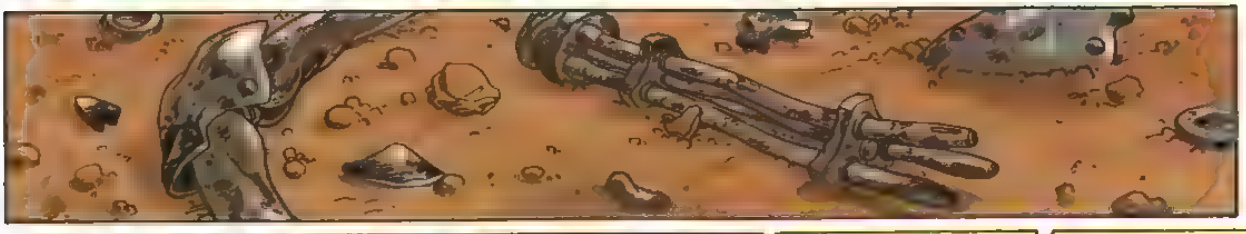

THE STRATEGY IMPOSES THE LOSS OF A FEW PIECES
MAYBE I'VE ELIMINATED THE THREAT?


OR MAYBE NOT THE DOUBT IS WORST OF ALL!

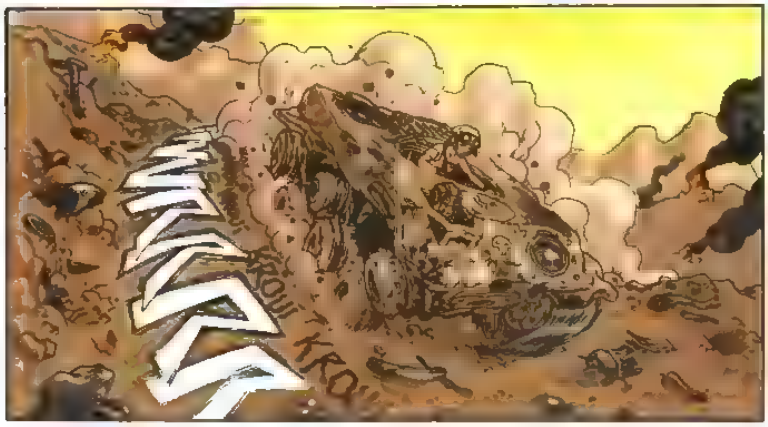

I CAN LEAVE NOTHING TO CHANCE
AND ASSURE MY-SELF WITH WITH MY OWN EYES

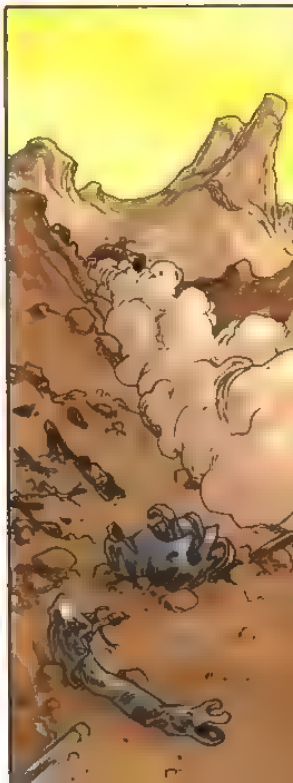
BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! I LACK THE INTERFACE TO ADJUST THE EYES OF THIS TYPE OF ROBOT

AND F



KRAB
KRUNK!

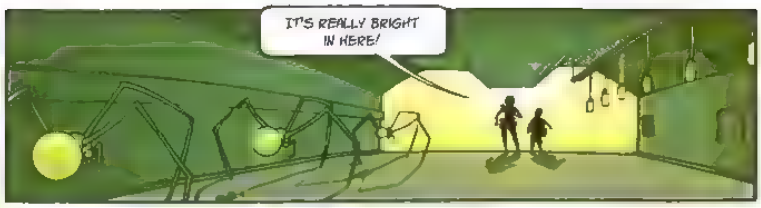

KRAKA
KROW KRO

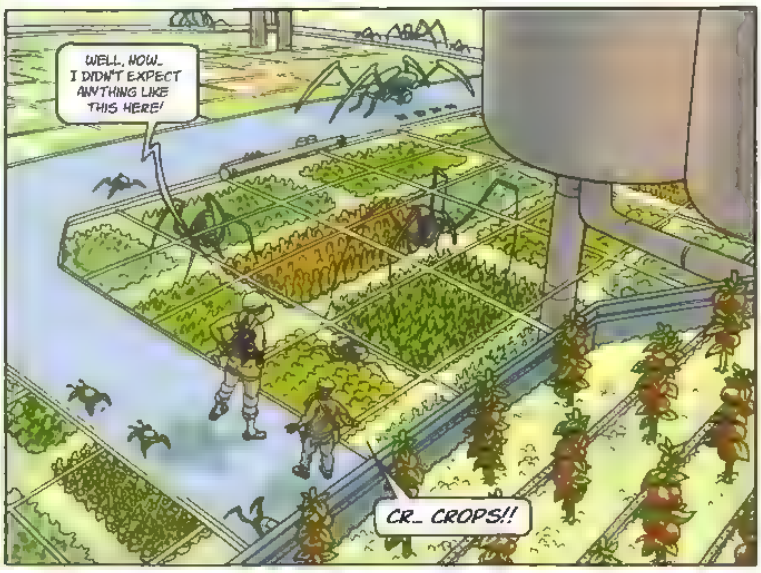


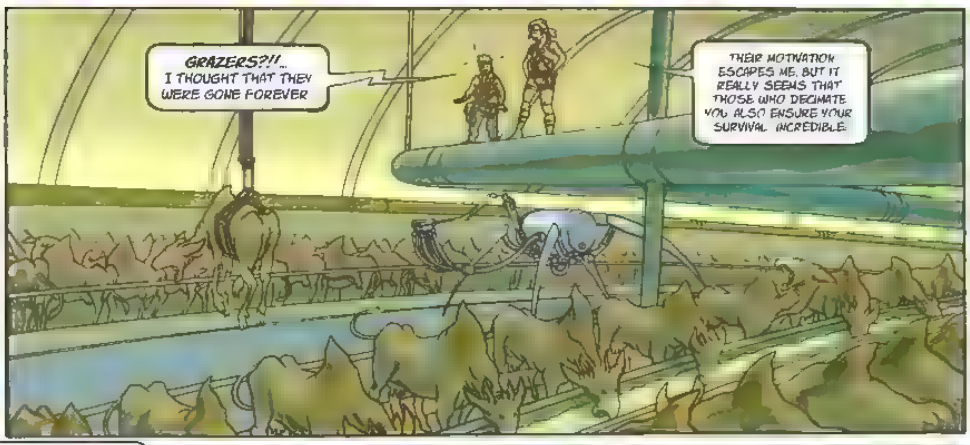
THIS WHITE ZONE, HERE! THIS ISN'T A KNOWN BEACON
IN THIS PLACE, THERE IS A HUGE MASS OF ENERGY THAT WIPES OUT ANY RECEPTION. IT HAS TO BE THE MEKKA'S COMMAND POST
IN ANY CASE, DOWN THERE IS WHERE WE'RE GOING
WE'LL KNOW MORE ONCE WE GET IN THERE
NAVIS, UH... WHAT IF MY SCRAMBLER FAILS?
THEN THAT WILL BE THE END! FOR BOTH OF US!!
ARE YOU COMING?

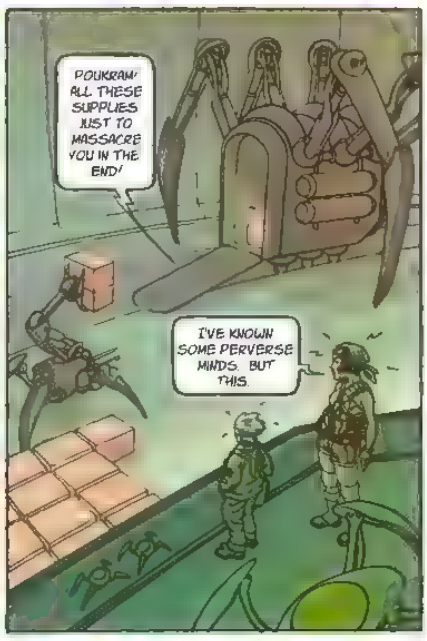
AS PLOL-LLUL FLIES, THE SHIP IS VERY CLOSE BUT, THIS PLACE IS A REAL LABYRINTH IN HERE.. SAY HELLO TO LOTS OF DETOURS.

I HOPE THAT SNIVEL WILL BE CLOSE TO OUR SHIP


IT'S REALLY BRIGHT IN HERE!

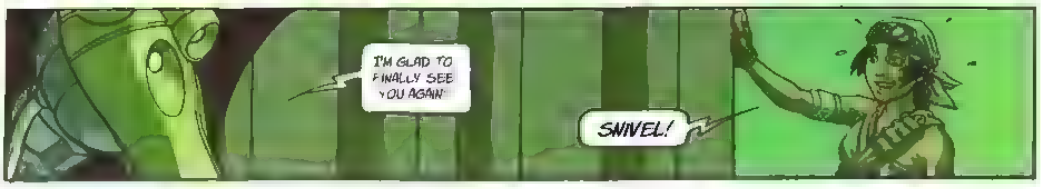

WELL, NOW.. I DIDN'T EXPECT ANYTHING LIKE THIS HERE!
CR.. CROPS!!


GRAZERS?!!.. I THOUGHT THAT THEY WERE GONE FOREVER
THEIR MOTIVATION ESCAPES ME, BUT IT REALLY SEEMS THAT THOSE WHO DECIMATE YOU ALSO ENSURE YOUR SURVIVAL. INCREDIBLE.

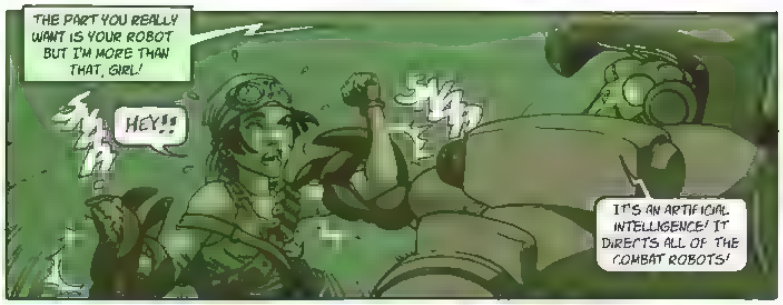

POUKRAM! ALL THESE SUPPLIES JUST TO MASSACRE YOU IN THE END!
I'VE KNOWN SOME PERVERSE MINDS. BUT THIS.

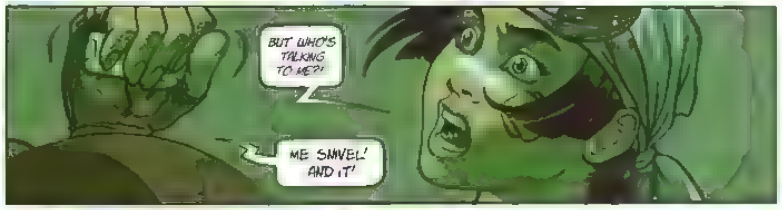
SO, THIS WAR ALL THE DEATHS. I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS. FROM THE BEGINNING, WE WERE JUST PAWNS OF A.. OF A MANIAC!!
I'M SORRY BERDSO

IT SHOULD BE AT THE END OF THAT CONDUIT

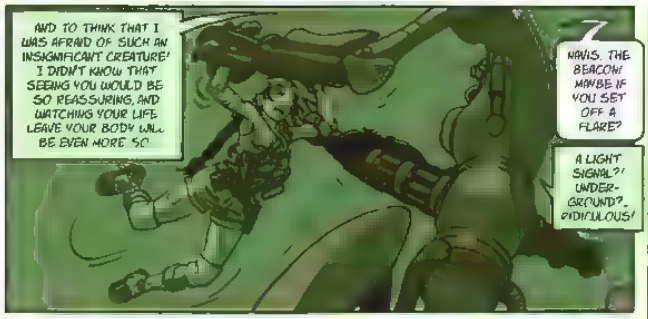

I'M GLAD TO FINALLY SEE YOU AGAIN!
SNIVEL!

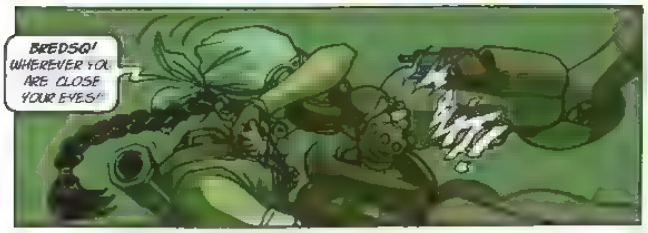
NOT AT ALL!
BEWARE NAVIS!!

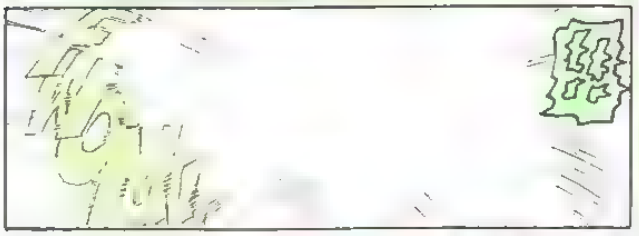

THE PART YOU REALLY WANT IS YOUR ROBOT BUT I'M MORE THAN THAT, GIRL!
HEY!!
IT'S AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE! IT DIRECTS ALL OF THE COMBAT ROBOTS!

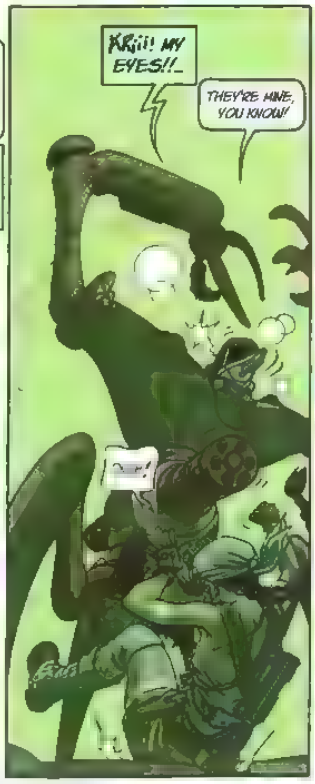

BUT WHO'S TALKING TO ME?!
ME SNIVEL! AND IT!

TO USE MY OPTICS IT HAD TO RECONNECT ME BUT WAKE'S TECHNOLOGY IS BEYOND THEM I CAN TALK, BUT I CAN'T ACT! THE ONE WHO WHO CAN UNPLUG MY VOICE CIRCUIT HASN'T BEEN BORN!
YOUR BABBLING WON'T SAVE YOU!


AND TO THINK THAT I WAS AFRAID OF SUCH AN INSIGNIFICANT CREATURE! I DIDN'T KNOW THAT SEEING YOU WOULD BE SO REASSURING, AND WATCHING YOUR LIFE LEAVE YOUR BODY WILL BE EVEN MORE SO.
NAVIS. THE BEACON! MAYBE IF YOU SET OFF A FLARE?
A LIGHT SIGNAL?! UNDER-GROUND?... RIDIULOUS!


BREDSO! WHEREVER YOU ARE CLOSE YOUR EYES!




KRii! MY EYES!!
THEY'RE MINE, YOU KNOW!

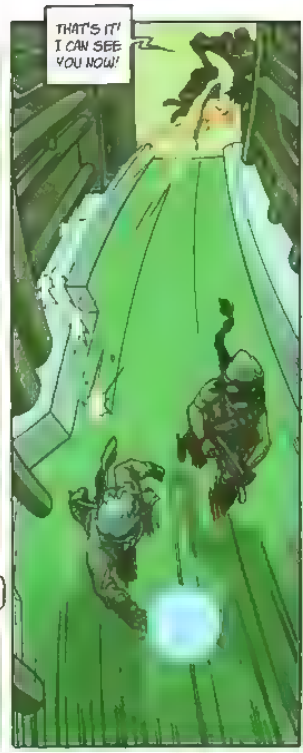
SKREEE! WHAT DID YOU DO? EVERYTHING IS WHITE!

NAVIS, MOVE! YOU'RE IN MY LINE OF FIRE!
NO! DON'T SHOOT! THAT'S NOT THE REAL TARGET!

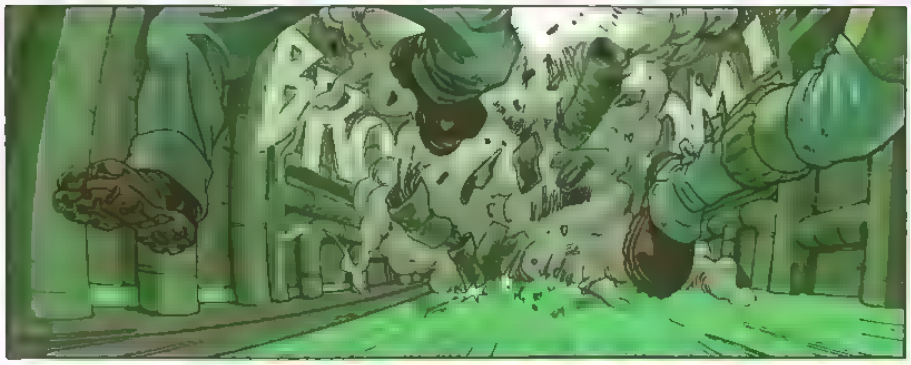
WHAT'S THE RIGHT TARGET THEN?
WE HAVE TO FIND THE CENTRAL UNIT THAT'S WHAT CONTROLS EVERY THING TO KILL IT WE HAVE TO HIT THIS THING'S BRAIN
YOU GO FIRST I'LL COVER YOU

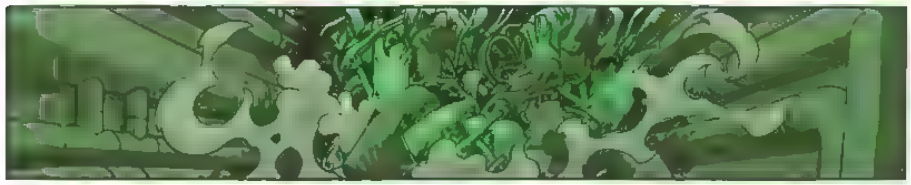
THIS THING... DO YOU KNOW WHERE IT IS?!!
YES

JUST THERE! IN THE BLANK ZONE!
SO LET'S GO!

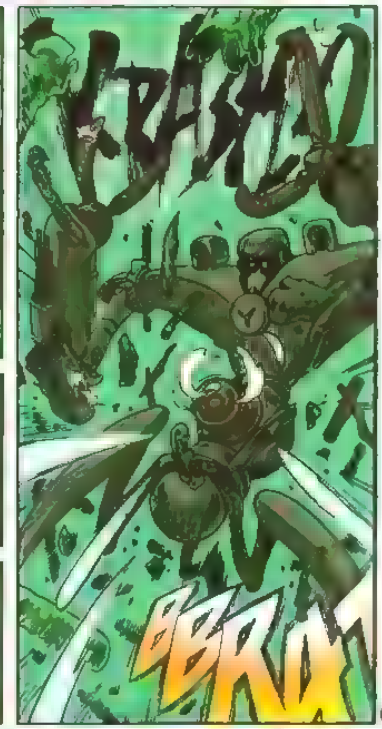

THAT'S IT! I CAN SEE YOU NOW!

YOU WON'T GET OUT OF HERE!
HERE! THIS WILL SLOW YOU DOWN A LITTLE!

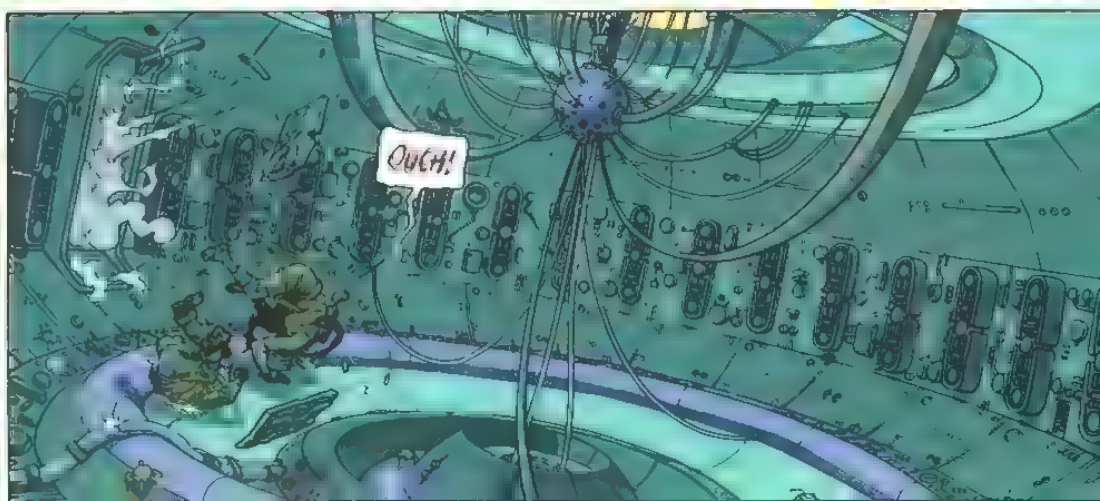




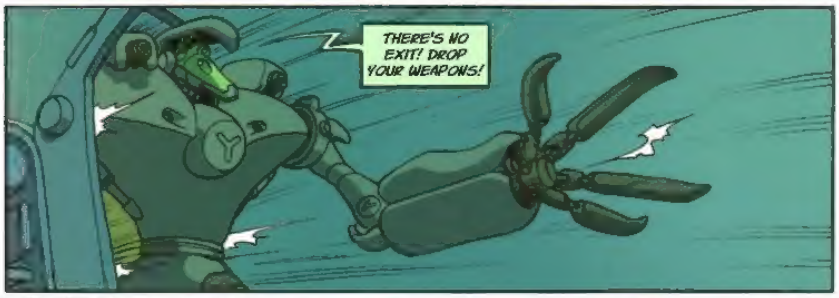
THAT WILL KEEP HIM BUSY FOR A WHILE
THE END OF THE LEFT CORRIDOR! THAT'S IT!


CRASH!
BRA

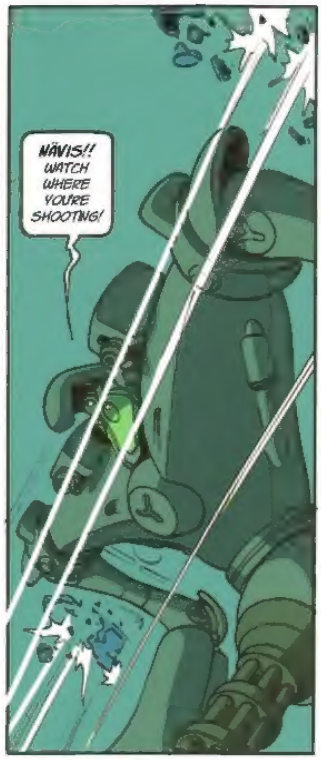
POUKRAM! I HOPE THIS IS THE RIGHT DOOR!! OR ELSE.

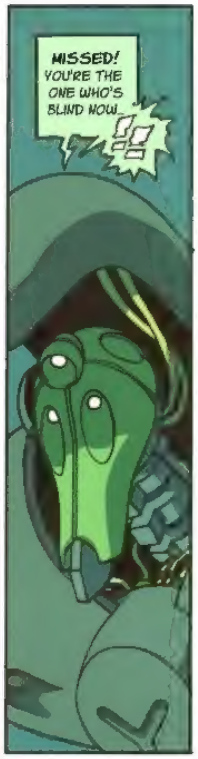

OUCH!

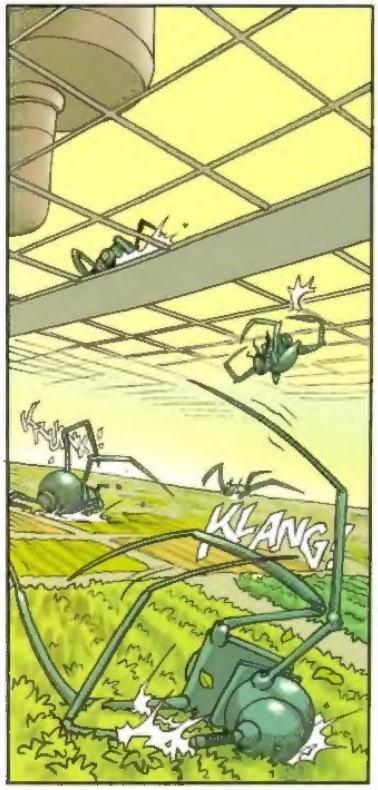
ARE YOU OKAY?
I THINK SO... WE'RE THERE?
I THINK SO. ANYWAY, THIS LOOKS LIKE THE PLACE.


THERE'S NO EXIT! DROP YOUR WEAPONS!

WELL! WELL! YOU'RE GIVING WARNINGS NOW?!
PAW!
PAW!

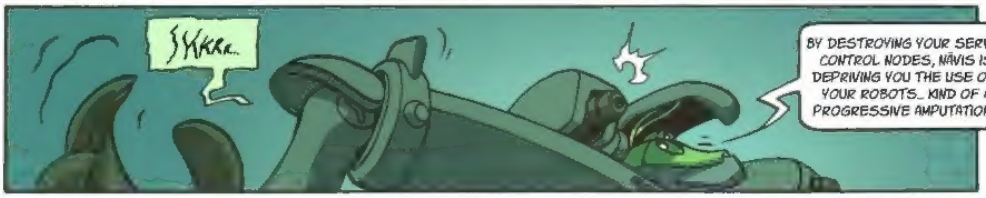

NÄVIS!! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE SHOOTING!

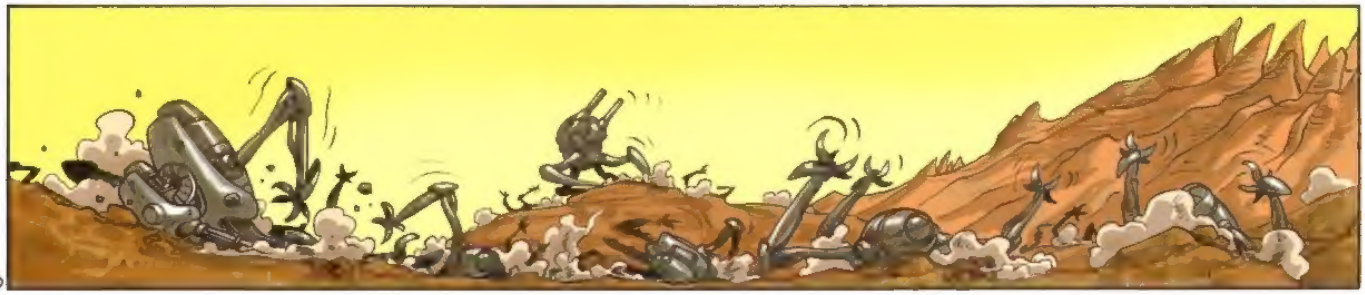

MISSED! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S BLIND NOW...


KLANG!

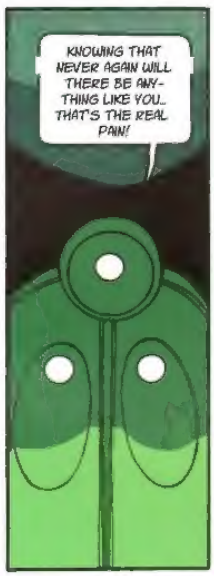
Skrii ii...
THAT REALLY HURTS, HUH?... WHEN ALL OF THE PAIN IS DIRECTED TO YOU!

CONTINUE, NÄVIS!
NO!


SKKRR...
BY DESTROYING YOUR SERVO-CONTROL NODES, NÄVIS IS DEPRIVING YOU THE USE OF YOUR ROBOTS... KIND OF A PROGRESSIVE AMPUTATION!!



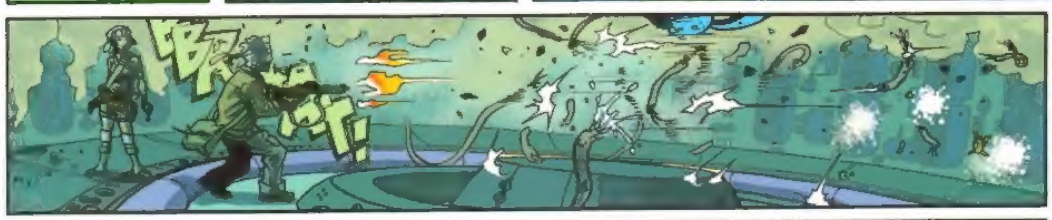
VRZZZFT
EACH NODE THAT'S DESTROYED, IS A PART OF YOUR MEMORY THAT DISAPPEARS. I'M SURE YOU'RE ALREADY MISSING THAT WHICH IS GONE FOREVER!


KNOWING THAT NEVER AGAIN WILL THERE BE ANY-THING LIKE YOU.. THAT'S THE REAL PAIN!

KRRZLT ... I STOP DOING THAT! THIS.. THIS ISN'T IN THE GAME!..
A GAME..?

A GAME!

FOR MY PEOPLE IT WAS NEVER A GAME! NEVER!



THAT BLOCK THERE! IT'S THE VITAL SYSTEM. THE BRAIN OF YOUR TRADITIONAL ENEMY!
BREAK THAT, AND IT DIES!

BERDSQ, WAIT A MOMENT, PLEASE!

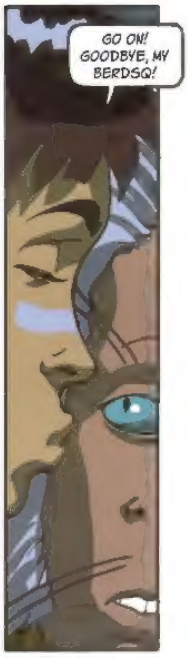
IT'S YOUR CHOICE.

KRZLZZZ!

REALLY, YOU'RE SURE? YOU DON'T WANT TO COME AND SAY A LAST GOODBYE?

NO, I... I'D NEVER DARE TO TELL THEM THAT THEY HAVE TO GIVE UP BEING SOLDIERS TO BECOME FARMERS!
...I'VE ALREADY SHAKEN THEIR MACHO PEDESTAL TOO MUCH!

THE TRUTH IS THAT GOODBYES ARE NEVER EASY TO SAY, OR AM I WRONG?
YES! WELL... NO.

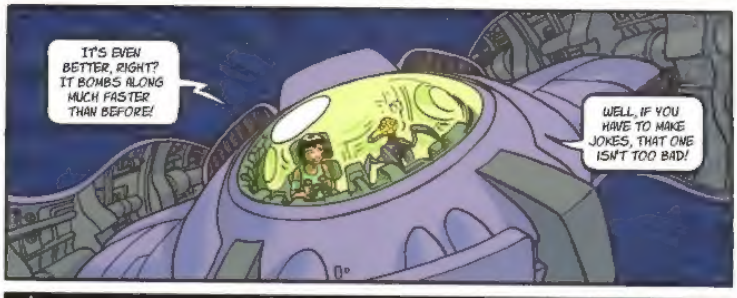

GO ON! GOODBYE, MY BERDSQ!

THEY'D PUT ME IN THE STOCKADE.
INDEED! I KNOW YOU NOW! YOU'D HAVE SOME FUN IF THEY TRIED THAT!

YOU'RE MORE GROWN UP THAN YOU SEEM TO BE!

A TOUCH OF THE BLUES, NAVIS?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHAT DO I HAVE TO BE SAD ABOUT?... I JUST FIND IT VERY IRONIC THAT OUR ENEMY FIXED OUR SHIP FOR US...


IT'S EVEN BETTER, RIGHT? IT BOMBS ALONG MUCH FASTER THAN BEFORE!
WELL, IF YOU HAVE TO MAKE JOKES, THAT ONE ISN'T TOO BAD!

WELL?!!... WHO'S JOKING?...

FORGET IT.

WAKE

Battle cruisers, Admirals' flagships, war transports, supply ships... these are some of the thousands of vessels which make up a formidable interstellar convoy, launched to search for new inhabitable planets. A convoy named *Wake*, aboard which all sorts of beings, with many different beliefs live side by side, but where one species remains unknown : the Human beings.

If her ship had not been sabotaged, Navis never would have landed on the planet where the Mekkas have always persecuted the Gunjinn people. She never would have met their Hembras who, under the pretext of being protected, live a submissive form of life. And she never would have known or travelled all over this trap laden world looking for Snivel, who was taken by the coldest enemies that she has ever battled. Finally, she never would have thought that anyone could possess such cynicism, to play with people's lives, as if they were no more than simple devices.

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